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Top Soccer

12th JANUARY, 1980

PETER SHILTON
writes for you

SPECIAL REPORT ON
GEORGE BEST
IN SCOTLAND

ENGLAND'S 1982
WORLD CUP TEAM?

F.A. CUP
Third Round preview

In colour:
CARDIFF CITY
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Photo Casebook
on Bob Latchford

**STILL THE No.1
IN FOOTBALL**

A SHOOT welcome to TOP SOCCER readers

FROM this week SHOOT incorporates TOP SOCCER, and moves even further ahead as the leader in the football magazine League.

We welcome Nottingham Forest and England goalkeeper PETER SHILTON... and articles such as Photo Casebook and Topic of the Week, combined with our usual line-up of top names, exclusive features, up-to-the-minute news and views, coverage of the world's leading competitions, colour photos and soccer

action will enable us to continue to present an unbeatable programme of interest to fans of ALL ages.

So kick-off 1980 with SHOOT incorporating TOP SOCCER — the magazine others will NEVER match!

Peter Stewart
EDITOR

TOUGH DRAW FOR THE GIANTS

ONE of the most exciting days of the year in football is the day when Sir Harold Thompson, Bob Lord and Ted Croker get together and plan the immediate destinies of 64 clubs in making the draw for the Third Round of the F.A. Cup.

Everyone waits with baited breath to see if this is going to be their turn for the glamorous tie of the round.

There's a nice mixture of titanic battles between top clubs and opportunities for smaller fry to put one over big brother. It all adds up to the romanticism of the F.A. Cup and of the 32 ties there's barely a bad one.

The Cup holders Arsenal for example were only just getting their breath back from that pounding they took at Swindon in the League Cup when they learned they'd have to travel to Cardiff.

They'll be purring in South Wales about that one, and no doubt Dai and Taffy will already be reminding everyone within earshot that the only time the Cup went out of England was when Cardiff won it back in 1927 by beating Arsenal in the Final.

By one of those strange quirks of the Cup all three Welsh clubs are at home to sides from London. Besides Cardiff, their near

neighbours Swansea City have a most attractive tie against Crystal Palace, while the Northern end represented by Wrexham will welcome a visit from Charlton Athletic.

Although London came out of the draw badly in general, the capital does host the match of the round — Tottenham Hotspur against Manchester United.

Reaction from both camps was predictable: "Oh not them again!"

That was predictable bearing in mind it will be the eighth time the pair have come into conflict in just over a year! Funny how certain clubs seem to magnetise one another.

Last season United ended Spurs F.A. Cup aspirations by drawing at White Hart Lane and then winning the replay 2-0 in the Sixth Round. This season they were coupled together in the League Cup and again United came out on top in a two-legged affair. Besides that they've met in the League of course and United already have a victory at Tottenham to their credit, which will act as a psychological advantage.

Two other First Division clubs are bound to fall at the first fence with Bristol City entertaining Derby County and Leeds United at home to Nottingham Forest.

F.A. CUP THIRD ROUND PREVIEW



Andy Rowland after scoring the winning goal for Swindon against Arsenal in the League Cup. The Gunners go West again — to Cardiff. They can't relish that.

Who will ever forget the incredible exploits of Yeovil's supposed country bumpkins back in 1949? Led by Alec Stock, who went on to carve his name into F.A. Cup history by taking Second Division Fulham to the Final, they upended Sunderland's pride of the day on that notorious slope which has claimed so many victims down in the West Country.

Now Yeovil get the chance to make more history and John Bond's Norwich won't exactly relish the prospect of a Saturday afternoon in Somerset, especially as they've had some embarrassing moments in the Cup in recent years, notably at Orient and Leicester and at home to Bradford City — beaten every time by a club from a lower station.



Another chance this one for Brian Clough to dig the Yorkshire club in the ribs and show them how wrong they were to dismiss him in double quick time five years ago.

Frankie Gray is also looking forward to going back to the Elland Road ground he left in return for Forest's £500,000 cheque in the summer.

Forest's record in Cup competitions and their demolition job on Leeds in the League Cup Semi-Finals a couple of years ago, point to another success for them, but Leeds have been improving after a dreadful start to the season and their manager Jimmy Adamson looks forward to the tie with confidence.

In many ways it's a shame that clubs of this calibre have to meet in the infancy of the competition, but on the other hand it leaves more scope for giantkilling and the draw has not been unkind to the surviving non-League sides.

It's strange how certain part-timers seem to have the knack of getting the big names every time. Wimbledon and Leatherhead, Blyth Spartans and Wigan always seemed to attract the 'plums' — now Altrincham and Yeovil Town seem blessed with the same ability.



Frankie Gray set to return to his former stamping ground at Elland Road with Nottingham Forest.



Alec Stock (left) doyen of many F.A. Cup campaigns since the last War. Another old Cup campaigner, Alex Stepney (right), formerly Manchester United, now installed at Altrincham, who meet Orient. David Cross (below) West Ham striker, returns to the club that sold him, West Brom.



home victory. Liverpool know only too well that Grimsby are as formidable as any opposition from the Third Division.

They have duffed up Everton in the League Cup, and led Wolves quite a merry dance too. What a season for The Mariners, and what a start to George Kerr's managerial career at Blundell Park.

The only other First Division side granted a home tie are West Brom, first out of the hat and paired with West Ham. David Cross would love to put one across his old club, but with the League having provided only disappointment for Albion they may prove a very good Cup bet.

No fewer than eight Second Division clubs are given the opportunity of licking their elder

Brighton who will have more than a tremor of doubt about going to Mansfield.

Their recently acquired striker Ray Clarke may be able to help, especially as he made his name with Mansfield before venturing abroad, but the man who eventually took his place Terry Austin is doing so well at Field Mill that Brighton will do well not to treat this one lightly.

Clubs with similar feelings will be Manchester City, whose exit at Shrewsbury last year led to the break-up of the side; Coventry, who shouldn't take Oldham for granted; Fulham, who have a nasty trip North at a time when their own form leaves a lot to be desired and Stoke city, humiliated by Blyth Spartans not so long ago and now due at Burnley where they'll throw everything except Bob Lord at the opposition in search of self respect.

But what chances for Isthmian League Harlow? Despite holding Third Division Southend to a 1-1 draw away from home in the Second Round, there could not have been many who fancied them to make the Third Round for the first time.

True to Cup tradition, the minnows came good just when it mattered, winning the replay 1-0.

Now they travel to Second Division promotion candidates Leicester, hoping to keep the tradition alive.

There are bound to be shocks, after all that's what the Cup is all about, but having said that if Liverpool continue to get the luck of the draw as they have been doing lately it's going to be mighty hard to bet against them appearing at Wembley yet again on May 10th.



As for Altrincham they must be wondering what more they have to do to press their claim for a Football League place. They always seem to reach the Third Round, and having drawn with Everton and Spurs in recent seasons, they should have no fears about a home tie with Orient.

Goalkeeper Alex Stepney, a Wembley medal winner with Manchester United in 1977, has been very impressed by the set-up and attitude at Altrincham, and he has no doubts that Orient can be beaten.

Cambridge United suffered at the hands of then Third Division Shrewsbury last year and will fear red faces again on the ground of non-League opposition, so without question the midgelets have a very real chance between them of giving the rest of the country a good chuckle.

It was a very unfriendly draw for the giants, with three of the six First Division clubs given home advantage playing other top sides.

Everton would do well to remember that Aldershot beat Sheffield United on the way to the Fifth Round last season when they went as far along the Wembley way as they've ever done, and while no one in his right mind could suggest anything but a



Frank Worthington, Birmingham's new striker, hoping to guide Blues to victory over Southampton at St. Andrew's.

brothers in their own bedroom, and Birmingham and Sunderland will certainly fancy their chances.

Brum take on Lawrie McMenemy's Southampton and it's the perfect platform for such as Archie Gemmill, Colin Todd and Frank Worthington to prove they've still got a right to compete with the best.

Worthington's old club Bolton provide the classic example of a First Division side starting as underdogs. With their dismal League record acting as a sharp reminder that they can't take anything for granted, Bolton have to go to Roker Park where Sunderland can be a match for anyone let alone a side struggling as Bolton have been doing.

Notts County have lost their grip in recent weeks but they'll still pose a few problems for Wolves, but Bristol Rovers will have to show vast improvement if they're to create a shock by getting rid of Aston Villa.

It's doubtful if Ipswich would have chosen a coach trip to Preston on January 5th, but that's just the sort of tie you have to overcome if you're going to win the Cup, and having got over their early dithers Ipswich should be equal to this one.

The same can hardly be said of

- West Brom v West Ham
- Notts County v Wolves
- Bristol City v Derby
- Chelsea v Northwich Victoria or Wigan
- Mansfield v Brighton
- Preston v Ipswich
- Everton v Aldershot
- Birmingham v Southampton
- Newcastle v Chester
- Altrincham v Orient
- Wimbledon or Portsmouth v Middlesbrough
- Chesham or Merthyr v Cambridge U.
- Walsall or Halifax v Manchester C.
- Tottenham v Manchester U.
- Leeds v Forest
- Wrexham v Charlton
- Burnley v Stoke
- QPR v Watford
- Millwall v Shrewsbury
- Cardiff v Arsenal
- Yeovil v Norwich
- Bristol Rovers v Aston Villa
- Blackburn v Fulham
- Carlisle v Bradford
- Luton v Torquay or Swindon
- Oldham v Coventry
- Reading v Colchester
- Liverpool v Grimsby
- Sunderland v Bolton
- Swansea v Crystal Palace
- Rochdale v Bury
- Leicester v Harlow

■ Latest betting: 5-1 Liverpool, 8-1 Arsenal, 12-1 Everton, Manchester United, Forest, West Bromwich.

The Nottingham Forest and England 'keeper has been "transferred" to SHOOT. Here's the first of his fortnightly columns.

KEEP UP WITH SHILTON

'Stan's not a bad man'

It must have surprised a lot of people in the game when Brian Clough and Peter Taylor signed him from Q.P.R. for a reported £210,000.

When you hear any mention of Stan his reputation invariably goes before him, but I'm sure he is not

as bad as he's been painted.

I know critics have said that if he could pass a betting shop as well as he passes a ball he would be an England regular. But he's been around a long time and although he might be referred to as one of the "if only" players, I'm sure he's got so much to offer us.

He knows what the game is all about, has played in Europe and for England and on top of that Stan also has tremendous ability. He's got vision, can create something out of nothing, holds the ball well and is always likely to pop a goal in.

Stan has said he has two or three years left at the top and that should fit neatly into the plan at the City Ground because we have one or two good young players coming through. If the boss had spent a lot of money on a 21-year-old it might have disheartened them, but they know they are still likely to get their big chance in the not too distant future.

WHILE I was shocked by the sudden closure of TOP SOCCER it gave me great pleasure to be asked by the Editor Peter Stewart to continue my column in SHOOT, which is the recognised leader in the soccer magazine world.

I can assure you I do take my column very seriously and would welcome any comments from readers.

This week I want to kick off by talking about my new team-mate Stan Bowles.

'Arsenal had me watched'

A GROUP of men in football work in such a way they would be naturals for a shadowy role in the secret service.

These members of the S.S. brigade I'm talking about are the scouts, who week in, week out, come rain or shine are out there trying to spot a star of the future.

Scouting systems are a vital part of any club's make-up and it's becoming more high powered as time goes on. Managers are only too aware of the benefits of getting top youngsters and grooming them for stardom.

Although Brian Clough and Peter Taylor have always been heavily involved in the transfer market, I know that they place great importance in getting players while they are young.

There are one or two teenagers on the staff at the City Ground at the moment who are being tipped for big things in the game and if they make the progress that is expected of them, they could either save — or make, depending which way you look at it — Forest

a lot of money.

Just look, for example, at the rewards that Birmingham City eventually enjoyed for spotting Trevor Francis as a youngster and persuading him to go to St. Andrews. They had great service from him and then made a £1m profit.

That £1m came originally from someone spotting Trevor at a game when there was probably a crowd of a hundred people and a dog!

But that's the world of the football scout. It's a very involved and mysterious business in many ways because in order to get their man, scouts have to move both quietly and quickly so they can beat the opposition.

It's so secretive that I don't honestly know the ways in which the Forest system works other than that Peter Taylor appears to have it all under his control. If one of the scouts in his network spots a lad that he thinks Forest might be interested in, he puts in a recommendation and Peter or the boss



goes to have a look and make a decision.

The way I look at it, there is a very special talent in looking at an enthusiastic youngster and being able to work out how he is going to develop because only a small percentage are eventually found to be good enough.

It's for that reason a top scout must be worth his weight in gold. But his is a highly responsible job not only from a talent-spotting point of view but because, until managers get involved, a scout is the only contact with a player and first impressions are important.

I personally didn't have too much contact with scouts when I was a youngster because it always seemed likely that I would go to Leicester.

I remember one day playing for my schools side and being told by my dad afterwards that an Arsenal scout had spoken to him. Naturally, I was delighted that someone attached to a big club should want to know about me but, as I say, I signed schoolboy forms for Leicester.

I get a lot of questions at times from young lads asking how they can be discovered. But if you have the ability, there is no need to worry about missing out.

If youngsters are concerned that they are not being noticed, my only advice is to write off to clubs asking for trials. All the top clubs have trials during school holidays and if you are determined enough, I'm sure you will get an opportunity.

'My F.A. Cup battle scar'

Frank Stapleton (left) heads Arsenal's winner against Forest in last season's F.A. Cup.



I'VE had great success since the minute I became a Nottingham Forest player. There was the League Championship, League Cup and European Cup... now I'm hoping to complete the set. It's F.A. Cup week and I can tell you that everyone at Forest is looking forward to doing well in this season's competition.

We've experienced the joy of winning at Wembley in the League Cup and although that is now a very important part of the football diary, there is nothing like being part of F.A. Cup Final day.

I once experienced it with

Leicester when we were on the receiving end of a Neil Young winner for Manchester City in 1969. But there was something special about the occasion.

The road to Wembley is littered with pitfalls and disappointments, however, and over the years the Third Round of the F.A. Cup has been something of a graveyard for top clubs.

When you are with a side who are expected to do well, the last thing you want in the Cup is to draw one of the "minnow" clubs, who have absolutely nothing to lose and everything to gain.

Glory is not the only driving force for the lowly clubs in the F.A. Cup. Financially, the right draw could bring in the kind of cash windfall that you could work years to earn. And there is also a matter of prestige and promoting yourself.

The chairman of Gravesend Roger Easterby is a very good friend of mine and as members of the new Alliance League I know just what it would have meant to him and his club if they had enjoyed a good Cup run.

They felt they were unlucky to lose to Torquay in the First Round proper but if they had survived another couple of matches, they could have been facing a trip to Old Trafford or Anfield.

I think most top clubs don't relish the prospect of meeting a non-League side or indeed one from the lower Divisions, particularly away from home. The opposition are guaranteed to treat it as their match of the season, they will run until they drop and big crowds squeezed into little grounds create an almost unreal atmosphere.

What you usually find is that the underdog sides will come at you like an express in the first-half but you have to absorb what they have to throw at you and then hopefully take them to pieces when they tire in the second-half.

It doesn't always work out like that, however. I remember playing for Leicester at Barrow, who were still in the League at the time. It was a wet and windy day and we thought Barrow would fade in the second-half, but at 1-1 they kept pressing ahead for the winner.

I can recall late in the game having to go in among some flying boots to make a save and collected a split lip for my troubles. I had to have four or five stitches and I've still got the scar as an eternal reminder of the game.

Thankfully, we managed to get a second goal before the end to avoid a replay and leave us happy in the knowledge that we had survived what could have been a ticklish tie.

This Saturday Forest meet Leeds at Elland Road in our Third Round tie.

It will obviously be a very tough game, and it was not really the kind of draw we were looking for at such an early stage in the competition. But hopefully we will win through and make it to Wembley this time.

See you in two weeks.

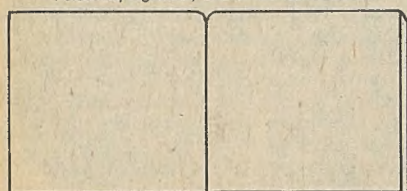
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SHOOT 9

KEVIN Keelan — an incredible 39 this week (Jan 5th) and the oldest player in the First Division — is getting tired of being asked the same old question.

"Just how much longer can you go on?" is the thing the Norwich City 'keeper — the Peter Pan of football — is constantly asked.

And the answer is always "for some time yet." For Keelan has no intention of hanging up his boots — and there's no reason why he should, when he's playing so well.

The ageless wonder — who earlier this season broke Ron Ashman's record of 662 appearances in the Norwich colours — had contemplated retirement at the end of this season to concentrate on his building business.

But his mind was soon changed after a chat with Norwich boss John Bond. "The gaffer told me I would be crazy to pack up while I was still able to hold down a first team spot and get enjoyment from the game," says Keelan.

"It did not take him long to

convince me he was absolutely right. So I've now put all thoughts of retirement out of my head and will just let things take their natural course.

"I'm having to work harder in training these days. It's obvious I will have to do that as I get older. But anything worth having is worth grafting for — so I don't mind all the sweat and toil."

Keelan is now in his 17th season at Carrow Road. He joined Norwich from Wrexham for a mere £6,500 — so it's fair to assume The Canaries have had value for their money!

Ron Ashman was manager when Kevin made his debut in 1962... and he admits it was a nightmare.

"I fluffed a 70-yard free-kick from Leeds United's John Charles, the former Welsh international. It hit a divot and went in," he recalls. "I owe Ron a debt for keeping me on after that."

In his time with the club he has seen more players come and go than he can keep count of.



Keelan enjoys the fruits of success, a beautiful house and a speedy Daimler car.

"When you consider that, for years, this club were regarded as no more than country cousins — we still are by some people! — they have achieved a miracle. It is now a club that anyone should be proud to play for."

Keelan, naturally, has experienced many ups and downs at a club who now seem to have established themselves in the big time.

And he has little difficulty in recalling the highspots, and the low points, of his long spell at Norwich.

"Highlights? That's easy. Winning promotion from the Second Division twice, in 1972 and 1975, and reaching the League Cup Final twice, in 1973 and 1975.

"Most miserable moments? Losing both those Finals — to Tottenham and Aston Villa, by the only goal on each occasion — and losing our place in the First Division in 1974."

Keelan surprises even himself when he glances at photographs of past Norwich teams and sees faces staring out that he had forgotten existed!

"You might find that difficult to understand. But when you consider the players I've seen arrive and depart from this place I think I can be forgiven. It must run into hundreds."

Happy Birthday KEVIN KEELAN soccer's ageless wonder

And he has seen structural improvements at the Carrow Road ground that he never thought were possible when he first walked into the place.

"For years we had one tiny entrance, cramped offices and there was nowhere for players to have a drink with their friends after the match," he explains.

"John Bond changed all that. He set out to drag Norwich into the modern age off the field as well as on it and the remarkable transformation that has taken place is all down to him.

"He has made Norwich into a mini-Manchester United and the facilities we have now mean we can hold our heads up in any company.

"The office staff have proper working conditions now, the players have their own lounge and we have a magnificent stand that is the envy of most clubs in the First Division.

"Training facilities have also been improved out of all recognition as well. A new sports hall, gymnasium and dressing rooms have been built at our Trowse training ground which means we can work properly even when the weather closes in.

Keelan is actually on loan with Norwich now. He belongs to American club New England Tea Men, who bought him two years ago and will go back to them in March, unless Norwich are in the running for honours.

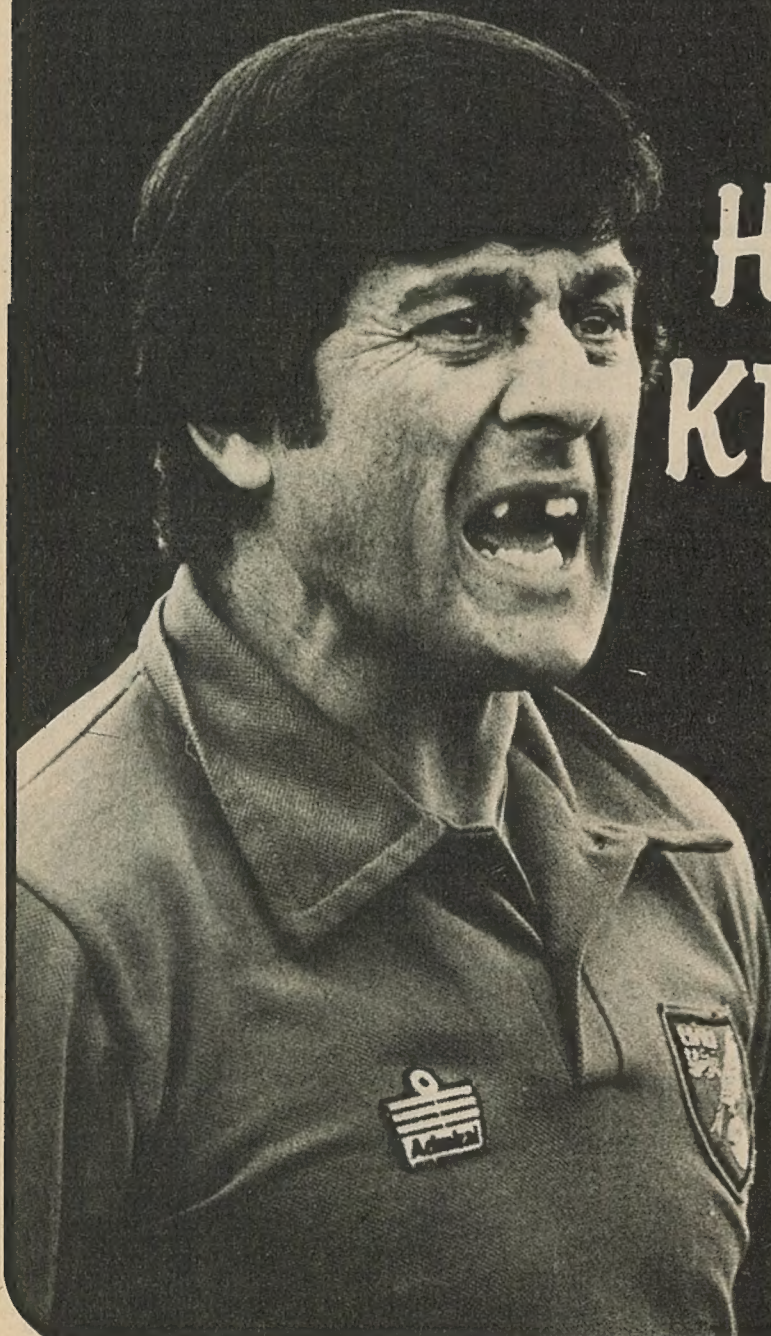
"If we are doing something in the Cups, or chasing the First Division title, Tea Men boss Noel Cantwell has agreed I can stay here and see it through. That's nice of him," says Kevin.

And Ron Greenwood gave him a boost by including him in a couple of England teams that played testimonials — the last one for Ipswich boss Robby Robson in November.

"That was a tremendous gesture and no one will ever know what that meant to me. It gives me an England jersey as a souvenir I'll cherish for the rest of my life," he says.

The creaking bones and stiffening joints that affect so many men as they approach 40 show no signs of catching up with Keelan yet. He works too hard for that to happen.

He plans to be around for some time yet — which is good news for all Norwich fans. So happy birthday Kevin.



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Paine to South Africa

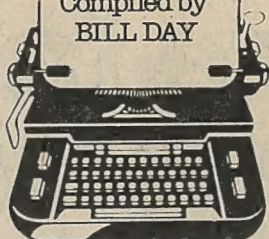
FORMER Southampton and England winger Terry Paine is finalising plans to coach in South Africa after resigning as player-manager of Southern League Cheltenham Town.

He will conduct coaching clinics for schoolboys at the famous Wanderers Club, Johannesburg. He will also play in exhibition matches.

Paine runs a pub called the Prince of Wales in Cheltenham. He leaves for South Africa in April, his second visit to that country. Terry has always shown an interest in young players and his youth policy at Cheltenham testifies to his success in encouraging the "grass roots".

NEWS

Compiled by
BILL DAY



DESK

Bill McGarry's gesture

WHO says there's no heart left in football? Certainly not Northern League club North Shields, who celebrate their 50th anniversary this season.

With only three weeks notice, neighbours Newcastle United agreed to send a team to North Shields to play a special game to make the occasion.

North Shields expected to see United reserves, but manager Bill McGarry sent along his entire first team, including players like Stuart Boam, Peter Withe, Terry Hib-

bitt and Mick Martin.

"What a tremendous gesture," said North Shields chairman Len Murphy. "United gave us a night to remember and we'll always be grateful to Mr McGarry."

And the St James' Park boss said: "We were only too glad to help. We're trying to improve our links with local clubs and this can only help. As a bonus, the lads said they thoroughly enjoyed themselves."

Newcastle won the game 4-1.

400 CLUB

Notts County skipper Brian Stubbs completed his 400th League game for the club recently. He said: "I'm not one for keeping records, although I was happy to reach such a landmark."

"I joined the club when they were near the foot of Division Four. Some people might not think that coming from the Fourth Division to the Second is too big an achievement, but we've done well to maintain our progress."

ON the day George Best was making his much publicised debut for Hibs against St. Mirren at Love Street, another 33-year-old veteran was making a comeback.

Former Celtic and Aberdeen Scottish international midfielder player Stevie Murray came on as a second-half substitute for Willie Pettigrew in Dundee United's runaway 6-2 League Cup Semi-Final victory over Hamilton at East End Park.

Murray was forced to quit the game three years ago with a foot injury and recently Tannadice manager Jim McLean invited him to scout for the club. Murray also trained and had a couple of games in the reserves before McLean decided he was good enough for top team duty.

Cropley could leave Villa



UNLUCKY midfielder player Alex Cropley is hoping that the New Year will bring him a change of fortune. Though he isn't very hopeful that his future will be at Aston Villa.

Cropley is back in action in the reserves after breaking an ankle just when he was reaching his best form after coming back from a double break of the left leg.

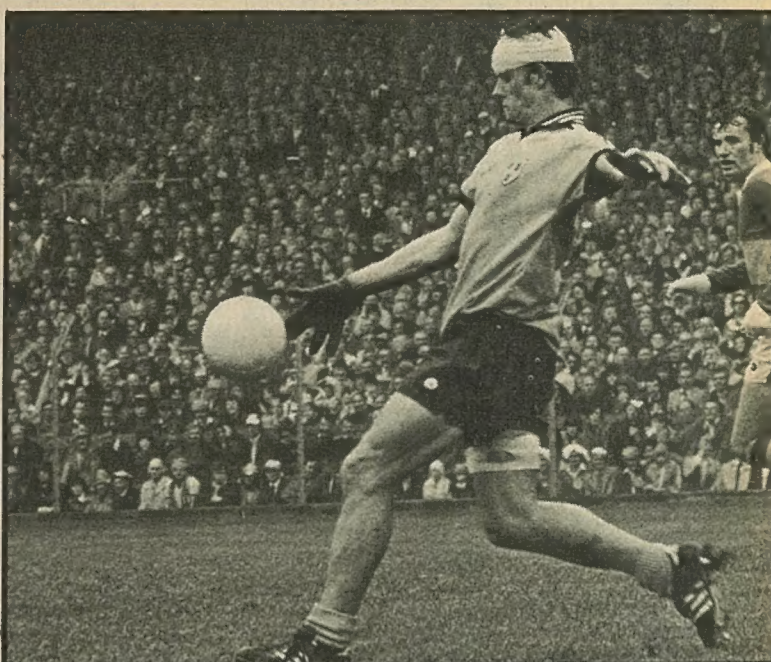
He has a steel pin in his left ankle now but says: "The left leg is getting stronger all the time and once I have got a few more matches under my belt I'm sure I'll be back at my best."

"I know that I have still got something to offer a First Division club but I don't know if that club will be Villa."

Cropley knows that he will find it hard to break into a midfield of Des Bremner, Dennis Mortimer and Gordon Cowans and that his task has been made harder by the arrival of Terry Bullivant from Fulham.

But when he feels he is ready, if there is no way into the side Cropley will be looking to move on.

He says: "I have worked very hard to get my fitness back after this latest injury and I am not going to see all that graft wasted."



Manchester United tipped to win first

MANCHESTER United's exciting new defender Kevin Moran is poised to make his debut for the Republic of Ireland against England, at Wembley on February 6th.

Manager Johnny Giles has hinted Moran could be handed a green shirt

after a series of outstanding performances for the First Division title-chasers.

He has been drafted into United's first team whenever Gordon McQueen has been absent through injury this season.

Moran has also impressed United's manager Dave Sexton, who says: "He's

Dundalk, the reigning double winners in Eire, have been promised a visit by Liverpool. A definite date has not yet been fixed, but St Patrick's Day, March 17th has been mentioned. Liverpool agreed to play at Oriel Park when they signed the Dundalk trio of Braddish, Carroll and Duff in May, 78.

BRISTOL CITY are eager to sign Aberdeen's international sweeper Willie Miller, 24, and have already made an approach to Pittodrie manager Alex Ferguson.

City manager Alan Dicks wants to add Miller to his already impressive Scots colony of Gerry Gow, John Shaw, Gerry Sweeney, Tom Ritchie, Don Gillies, Tony Fitzpatrick and Peter Cormack.

Geordie's Norway bound

GEORGE Armstrong, the former Arsenal winger, is shortly to take up a managerial appointment in Norway.

In recent weeks he has been coaching with Aston Villa, gaining experience which he feels will be useful in Norway.

He is to join a club in the Narvik area and fully intends to play for his new side.

He said: "It was a very good financial offer."

TONY Mercer, 18, could soon earn senior recognition at Orient.

He signed professional in October after solid grounding at South East Counties League level. He was previously on Coventry City's books as a schoolboy and Crystal Palace's as an apprentice.



TOP Comedian Bobby Knutt, a devoted Sheffield United fan, arrives every Monday at Hillsborough! Yes Hillsborough home of Sheffield Wednesday.

For Bobby is being kept-fit by his mate Tony Toms — who is a coach at Hillsborough. Tony puts Bobby through his paces every Monday afternoon with the emphasis very much on weight training.

He was at Hillsborough on Boxing Day for the derby game against Wednesday. Who was he shouting for? Your guess is as good as mine.

● Centenarians Cliftonville, Ireland's oldest senior outfit, are the latest Irish League club to launch a match programme, aptly named "Solitude Sound", after the Belfast combination's famous stadium.



reserve cap

now played against some of the best strikers in the First Division. He kept the top scorer, Phil Boyer, exceptionally quiet in the game against Southampton and did well against the Crystal Palace strikers.

Moran played centre-half in Gaelic

Football before he switched to soccer. He won All-Ireland medals with Dublin in 1976 and 1977 and played on despite a head injury in the 1978 Final.

He was spotted by Billy Behan, Manchester United's long serving Irish scout. Behan was also responsible for Giles' arrival at Old Trafford before the midfielder player was transferred to Leeds United.

Moran says: "I've enjoyed playing at Old Trafford. Walking out there in front of a big crowd is the nearest thing I've experienced to playing in the All-Ireland Gaelic Finals."

● Kevin playing Gaelic football (top left) and soccer for United (above).

Burnley clear-out threat

THERE could be some departures from Turf Moor as manager Brian Miller makes his presence felt at Burnley. The club's change of fortunes has been because Miller has dropped several established stars, such as Peter Noble, Steve Kindon and Brian Hall and they may not see much future as Miller gives his youngsters their chance.

It would be a great shame if Burnley, who have produced some of the most talented players in the League, were relegated from Division Two.

Miller is looking towards youth to save the club, so don't be surprised if there is transfer activity at Turf Moor soon.

NEWRY Town trainer-coach John Fearon is back where he started at the Showgrounds.

After a lengthy playing and coaching career with Newry, Portadown and Dundalk, mentor John is now back at his original stamping ground.

SEVERAL clubs have been showing an interest in Simon Garner, the 20-year-old Blackburn striker who has been unable to claim a regular place after being top scorer last season.

He turned down a £35,000 transfer to Halifax, but could be on the move if the right offer comes along.

Taxman K.O's Supermac

THE taxman has prevented Malcolm Macdonald from playing for Limerick United.

Macdonald had promised to play at least one League game for his old pal Eoin Hand, who is now boss of the Eire side. Five days after Supermac returned to Tyneside for Ian McFaul's testimonial, he made the trip to the Market's Field. But his clearance did not come through in time. However, it was later revealed that had Malcolm played, he might have had to repay all or part of the compensation money he received when his career was cut short by injury last summer.

Macdonald did not disappoint the big crowd who turned up for the top of the table clash with Dundalk. He banged home a few spot kicks, signed autographs, and Limerick beat the reigning Champions to go top of the table!

GRIMSBY Town are to be sponsored by Findus, the national frozen food company, for three years. They will carry the company's name on their shirts.

TONY Godden, West Bromwich Albion's goalkeeper, is rapidly approaching a new club record. He has now made 134 consecutive appearances for Albion.

This is only eleven behind the record set by Jimmy Sanders between 1948-50. Over 100 games have been played in the First Division.

FACTastic

ENGLAND's number five shirt has been worn by no fewer than 17 different players since Jack Charlton's last international appearance in 1970.

GLENN Hoddle of Tottenham is Robinson's Barley Water 'Young Player of the Month'. The selection panel included Bill Shankly, Jackie Milburn, Stan Cullis, Bill Nicholson, Mike Smith and England team-manager Ron Greenwood.

Hoddle receives an inscribed salver and a cheque for £250 to donate to his favourite charity.

Regional nominations were: Ray Ranson (Manchester City); Craig Johnston (Middlesbrough); Gordon Cowans (Aston Villa); Tony Pulis (Bristol Rovers).

LATEST TRANSFERS

Derek Bell.....Barnsley to Lincoln C.
George Best.....Fulham to Hibernian
Terry Bullivant.....Fulham to Aston Villa
Sammy Chapman.....Tulsa to Shrewsbury
Len Cockerill.....Lincoln to Swindon
Stan Cummins.....Middlesbrough to Sunderland
David Giles.....Wrexham to Swansea
David Gregory.....Bury to Portsmouth
Billy Hamilton.....Q.P.R. to Burnley
Mike Henderson.....Sunderland to Watford
Gordon Hill.....Derby Co to Q.P.R.
Viggo Jacobson.....Denmark to Charlton A.
Roger Joslyn.....Watford to Reading
Claudio Marangoni.....Argentina to Sunderland
Herbie Smith.....Tooting & Mitcham to Luton
Peter Suddaby.....Blackpool to Brighton
Jimmy Sweetzer.....Oxford U. to Millwall
Tony Woodcock.....Nottm. Forest to Cologne
Frank Worthington.....Bolton to Birmingham C.

Frank Lord appointed manager of Hereford.
Doug Collins sacked as manager of Rochdale.
Bob Stokoe appointed manager of Rochdale.
Alan Bloor resigned as manager of Port Vale.

Givens would suit Cardiff



REPUBLIC of Ireland striker Don Givens is the player to solve Cardiff City's goalscoring problems.

That's the opinion of Tony Evans, the striker City have failed to replace since his £125,000 move in the close season to Birmingham.

Evans believes Givens, his Birmingham team-mate, would be an asset to the Ninian Park club.

He says: "If Cardiff are looking for someone to play alongside Ray Bishop then Don could do the job. He's a quality player, there's no doubt about that. His experience has given him a good knowledge of the game and that experience might be useful to City."

Givens has been out of the Birmingham team for much of the season, first through injury and then following the arrival of Frank Worthington from Bolton. Fine form by Keith Bertschin has also limited his chances.

It is understood that a cheque for £100,000 would secure Givens' services.

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Ipswich v. Arsenal
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Nottingham Forest v. Liverpool
- 1977 EUROPEAN CUP FINAL
Liverpool v. Borussia MGB
- 1977 BATTLE OF THE GIANTS
Manchester Utd v. Liverpool
- 1977 LEAGUE CUP FINAL
Villa's Hat-trick
- 1976 UEFA CUP
Liverpool v. Bruges
- 1976 FA CUP FINAL
Super Saints!
- 1976 LEAGUE CUP FINAL
Man. City v. Newcastle
- 1976 KINGS OF SCOTLAND
Rangers v. Hearts
- 1975 F.A. CUP FINAL
Hail To The Hammers!
- 1975 LEAGUE CUP FINAL
Viva The Villa!
- 1974 F.A. CUP FINAL
Liverpool's Cup
- 1974 LEAGUE CUP FINAL
Wonderful Wolves!
- 1973 F.A. CUP FINAL
Sunderland's Cup
- 1973 LEAGUE CUP FINAL
Spurs v. Norwich
- 1972 F.A. CUP FINAL
Leeds v. Arsenal
- 1972 LEAGUE CUP FINAL
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- 1971 EURO CUP WINNERS
Chelsea v. R. Madrid
- 1971 LEAGUE CUP FINAL
Spurs v. Aston Villa
- 1970 F.A. CUP FINAL
Chelsea's Cup
- 1966/70 WORLD CUP
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- * 1976 Man. City 2, Newcastle 1 200ft
- * 1975 Aston Villa 1, Norwich 0 100ft
- * 1974 Wolves 2, Man. City 1 100ft
- 1973 Spurs 1, Norwich 0 100ft
- 1972 Stoke 2, Chelsea 1 200ft
- 1971 Spurs 2, Aston V. 0 50ft
- 1967 Q.P.R. 3, W.B.A. 2 200ft

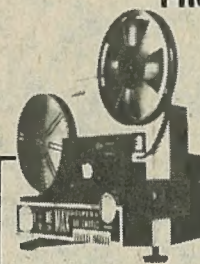
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also 400ft b/w SOUND
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LUTON TOWN

PAUL Price is a relative newcomer to the role of team captain, but Luton manager David Pleat has been so pleased with this defender's outstanding performances that he had no hesitation in appointing him to that role at the beginning of the season. And the proof of the effectiveness of that decision can be seen by a look at the Second Division tables as Luton press for promotion. Born at nearby St Albans, Paul started his career with the club at left-back, but made the switch to the centre of defence last sea-

son following Paul Fletcher's move to Manchester City. He was recently called into the Welsh squad for a European Championship game in Turkey, and although he failed to make the team Paul clearly plays a vital role in Mike Smith's future plans. He qualifies for this international honour through his Welsh-born father. Yet life has not always been so rosy for Paul Price. Twice he has had to recover from a broken leg, but happily he is now back to lead Luton towards the First Division.



HULL CITY

GORDON NISBET

FORMER West Bromwich Albion full-back who is now the midfield inspiration with Third Division Hull. Gordon made 136 League appearances for Albion, mainly in the number three shirt, and played for the England Under-23 team against East Germany in 1972. Joined Hull three years ago, and was an ever-

present for them last season. At the start of the present season Gordon had made 123 League appearances for the club, and such is his popularity with the fans at Boothferry Park that he has received the Hull City 'Player of the Year' award for the past two seasons, testimony to his contribution to the team effort.

IPSWICH TOWN

MICK MILLS



ENGLAND international full-back and Ipswich appearance record-holder, Mick joined the club back in 1965 when Portsmouth decided to scrap their youth policy, and up to the start of the current season he had made 572 first team appearances. Manager Bobby Robson has been attempting to sign Coventry striker Mick Ferguson in recent weeks, but City's insistence that Mills is part of any deal has made the Ipswich boss think twice. Mick gained the first of more than 25 England caps against Yugoslavia in 1973, and has twice led his country against Wales and Northern Ireland. Although Robson and Mick are a long way from a league title, the manager has been a constant for his club with consistency, performance, both on and off the pitch, and a lot of fun. Ever present last season, Mick led the club to the last

LIVERPOOL

PHIL THOMPSON



HAVING led Liverpool to their 11th League Championship last season, captain Phil Thompson is understandably ambitious to maintain the incredible record of success at Anfield. Centre-half Phil has been with Liverpool for nearly ten years, and has been a full professional since January, 1971. At first he had to play understudy to Emlyn Hughes and Larry Lloyd, but he soon convinced manager Bill Shankly that he was more than worthy of a regular first team place. Gained his first England cap against Wales in 1976, and his acknowledgement as one of the finest skipper's currently in the game was completed in November of last year when he led the national side against Bulgaria. There are very few honours left which Phil Thompson has yet to achieve, and his ultimate target must certainly be a World Cup winners medal in Spain in 1982.

(● On page one of the booklet we referred to Phil Neal as Liverpool's skipper. We are sorry for the error.)



LINCOLN CITY

GRAHAM WATSON

HARD-working midfielder player signed from Cambridge United in September, 1978 in an unsuccessful attempt to prevent relegation to Division Four last season. Graham started his career with his hometown club Doncaster on leaving school, and after scoring 34 goals in 156 League games for them he was transferred to Cambridge United. While there, Graham helped the Abbey Stadium club climb from

the Fourth to the Second Division, but made only one appearance as substitute for them last season and was subsequently sold to Lincoln. Injury restricted his appearances last season, and consequently he was unable to prevent the drop back into Division Four, but now Graham Watson is back to full fitness and determined to lead a revival, down at Sincill Bank.



ALAN ROBERTSON



KILMARNOCK

ALAN ROBERTSON is a young man who is destined for great things in soccer. Already the Kilmarnock full-back has captained the Rugby Park part-timers to promotion to the Premier Division and even before the new season officially kicked off he was picking up another trophy. Kilmarnock won the Tennent-Caledonian Cup after beating Rangers 5-4 on penalty-kicks, the game finishing in a 2-2 draw after 90 minutes. So, the ambitious Robertson has

tasted success, but he is far from satisfied. He has spent all his senior career with Kilmarnock since being snapped up from local club, Troon Juniors. He is a full-back who likes to go forward in support of his forwards. His defensive abilities are obviously his strong point, however, and there aren't many wingers around who can say they have given this fine professional the run-around. Scotland boss Jock Stein has been taking notes.

LEEDS UNITED

TREVOR CHERRY

ENGLAND international defender or midfield player with 20 full caps and a key figure in

manager Ron

Greenwood's plans for

this year's European

Championship Finals in

Italy. Trevor started his

career with nearby

Huddersfield, and arrived

at Elland Road at the

same time as defender

Roy Elam. Although

Elam failed to establish

himself at Leeds, Trevor

soon fitted in to the

pattern of things and

eventually succeeded

Billy Bremner as team

captain. Last season

Trevor relinquished the

role to Tony Currie, but

his England team-mate's

departure to Q.P.R.

earlier in the season has

meant Trevor has

resumed the duty. A

determined approach

coupled with excellent

distribution makes

Trevor a key member of

the Leeds side, whether

at full-back or in midfield,

and his marvellous

consistency makes him

one of the few survivors

of a team rapidly being

reshaped by manager

Jimmy Adamson.



LEICESTER CITY

DENNIS ROFE

WITH perhaps the

youngest team in the

Football League, the

role of captain Dennis

Rofo at Leicester is

vital to the club's

promotion prospects

this season. Left-back

Dennis started his

career at Orient, with

whom he played 171

League games before

following manager

Jimmy Bloomfield to

Leicester in 1972. He

continued to make

steady progress at

Filbert Street, and in

1973 gained England

Under 23 recognition

against

Czechoslovakia.

Although Dennis has

not added to that

solitary international

appearance, Leicester

manager Jock

Wallace realises the

need to hold on to his

talented defender.

Andy Peake, Dave

Buchanan and Mick

Goodwin are just a

few of the talented

teenagers keeping

Leicester at the top of

the Second Division

this season, but the

steadying influence of

Dennis Rofo is an

essential factor if the

club are to maintain

their progress.



'MY HOPES FOR 1980'

S COTTISH soccer goes into the 80's with a lot of questions hovering around.

Rangers were the last Scottish team to win a European trophy — the Cup-Winners' Cup in 1972 — and the fans continually ask if a side North of the border can bring more European glory to the coun-

try in this new decade.

And what about the international side? Can Scotland reach the World Cup Finals for the third successive time?

Is there anything that can be done to bring the fans flocking back to the game? Are rigid systems killing off individual flair and stifling crowd-pleasing personalities?

Let's take a look into the crystal ball and see what emerges. On the European front it is vital for a club of Rangers' size to make an impact on that scene.

We came so close in the European Cup last season when we reached the Quarter-Finals before losing out to Cologne after dismissing Juventus and PSV Eindhoven. That failure still remains the biggest disappointment of my career.

I can't make any promises, of course. To win in Europe is a mammoth achievement. There can only

Jim Cannon of Crystal Palace (left) and Kenny Burns of Nottingham Forest (right) were included in the recent Scotland squad.



Tartan Talk

DEREK JOHNSTONE



be three victors at the end of the season, and the cream of every European country is chasing those trophies.

To win a coveted European title a team must have a lot of ingredients. You can talk of great managers, superb players, gifted individuals, rigid team structures, but you must also take a little bit of luck into consideration.

Just take one look at Rangers' draws in Europe over the past two seasons. I've already mentioned Juventus, PSV Eindhoven and Cologne, but this season we were even drawn in a preliminary tie against Lillestrom before facing Fortuna Dusseldorf in the First Round. And after getting through all that we came face to face with Valencia.

Don't get me wrong, no one at Rangers is frightened of big-name teams, but no one can accuse us of getting an easy passage, can they?

All going well, we'll be having another go next season and we will be calling on a fair bit of experience. We'll certainly take a

lot of stopping.

The international side is still in the process of re-building and I was delighted to be included in Jock Stein's squad for the European Championship against Belgium last month.

His selections for that match were interesting and could set us on the path to the World Cup Finals in Spain in 1982.

I was delighted to see Jim Cannon included in the squad. Crystal Palace's captain has waited a long time for an international call-up and deserves his chance on the strength of impressive performances this season in the English First Division.

It was a clear indication that Mr Stein is prepared to experiment for the World Cup qualifying games, which start this year.

Misgivings

It was good, also, to see Kenny Burns back in the squad after missing a game with a broken nose. No one likes to see players dropped from a squad, especially if they are friends, so it was with misgivings that I saw the departure of several established internationals.

How do you bring the crowds back to the game? You can talk about changing the basic rules, but I believe Rangers are going the right way about it. We are still rebuilding our already impressive Ibrox Stadium and once the team settles in to a successful run the fans will be watching some of the best football in Britain in comfort.

I'll just touch on personality players before I sign off. George Best surely proved that the fans in Scotland can appreciate the finer points of soccer from a skilled individual. Soccer may be a team game, but players with attacking ideas should be allowed to flourish in Scotland.

Let's hope we see more of it in the 80's. Cheers for now and I'll see you again in two weeks time.

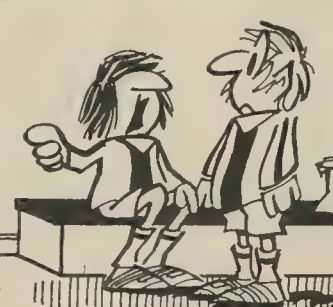
**TARTAN TALK FROM
CELTIC'S DANNY
McGRAIN NEXT WEEK**

NOBBY

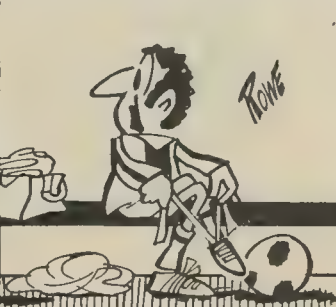
I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT



"YOU'LL SEE I'VE MADE SOME CHANGES" he said



LAST WEEK'S GOAL-LESS DRAW SEEMS TO HAVE UPSET HIM



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THEY came from all over the globe to witness the spectacle. They arrived from Spain and Sweden; they flew in from West Germany and Holland; they made their way from Belgium and Czechoslovakia. If an Albanian had turned up no-one would have been unduly surprised.

Love Street, Paisley, home of St. Mirren Football Club, was their target. Television cameras were erected, radio stations picked their positions, fans arrived early in the lashing rain to make sure they didn't miss anything. Adoring girl fans crowded the players' entrance.

George Best was back in town and everyone wanted to get in on the act. The interest this 33-year-old former superstar aroused was absolutely startling. One wonders if the world's Press would have been so stirred up if someone like Diego Maradona had just joined a Scottish club!

The most ambitious transfer in Scottish soccer history was also proving to be the most intriguing as Best arrived to an overwhelming welcome with the rest of the Hibs team.

"He's turned up," shouted one Pressman, obviously still not sold on the idea that Best was, in fact, ready to make his first competitive



GEORGE BEST —the return of

'YESTERDAYS'

appearance on British soil for two years.

Best had to push his way through an army of photographers as he took the pitch for the first time in Hibs' green and white shirt, so reminiscent of the Northern Ireland jersey he wore with so much pride while he was in his prime.

That game against St. Mirren is now in the history books. Best played well enough, scored a last minute goal, came within inches of netting another, but Hibs still went down to a 2-1 defeat.



Best with wife Angela at Heathrow Airport preparing to leave for Edinburgh.

At the end of the game it looked as though the entire population of China had arrived. The corridor outside the away team's dressing room was bursting at the seams as journalists jostled to get into position. Microphones, cameras, notebooks were at the ready.

The door opened slowly and Best, the man who has seen it all and done it all several times over, blinked in utter astonishment. The barrage opened immediately and an avalanche of questions — some in broken English — cascaded down on top of him.

Was he happy with his performance? He thought for a brief moment and said: "I wasn't entirely satisfied. Ask me again in about six games and I will be able to tell you."

"You'll never see the old George Best, though. But, I think I still have something to contribute."

How did he feel? "Obviously I need to get match fit. I wasn't going to run up and down the pitch like a lunatic in the first half and burn myself out. I had to play myself in quietly. It would have been nice to have turned on the old style, but that wasn't the game in which to do it."

Was he nervous? "You can say that again! I said to my wife Angela before the game that I had butterflies. That is a new experience for me. It was worse than playing in front of a capacity crowd at Wembley."

Did he enjoy the reaction? "The fans were fabulous. The chairman, Tom Hart, told me there were only



The old style George Best, carving a way through the St. Mirren defence on his debut for Hibs.

6,000 at Love Street earlier in the season when Hibs played there. Almost 14,000 turned up for my debut match and that pleases me.

"It was good to see that the gate had more than doubled. I'm happy the fans still want to see me. I knew everyone's eyes were on me in that game against St. Mirren and that is why I was a bit nervous."

Is he going to get match fit at Hibs' considerable expense and then move to an English club if all goes well? "I hear other people saying this, but I haven't said so myself. I have an agreement with Mr. Hart, that if a club comes in for me and their offer is acceptable to Hibs and myself then I will consider it."

Does he still think he can play at the highest level even at 33? "If I can get back to peak fitness then I don't see any reason why I can't. My legs might not be so fast, but my head still works, you know. I can still see moves before a lot of other players."

Best handled the questions superbly and then stepped into a chauffeur-driven Daimler along with his Scottish-born wife Angela and was whisked off to Glasgow Airport where he caught the next flight back to his home in London.

But what are the facts behind

this astounding move by troubled Hibs who are facing relegation firmly in the face? How can they afford to make Best such a lucrative offer while other clubs can only look on?

Tom Hart, the Easter Road millionaire chairman, is paying Best's wages from his own pocket. Best, then, is NOT on the Hibs payroll.

"I don't have a racehorse, I don't own a yacht and I don't gamble," says Hart. "I spend my money as I wish and football is my hobby. With other members of my family, I will be paying Best's wages."

Best is earning a reported figure of £3,000 per game. The complete run-down means that Hart will pay for two return tickets by British Airways from London to Edinburgh for Best and his wife at a cost of £148. Best will arrive on the Friday morning and a car — paid for by Hart — will collect the couple and take them to the exclusive North British Hotel where the cheapest double room is £50. Hart will again pay for that out of his own pocket.

Hibs cannot lose. At Best's home debut these were 13,000 more fans than usual, so Hibs pocketed around £12,000 extra. As George is paid privately, all the extra gate money is profit — none goes towards Best's "bill".



Taking a breather as teammate Ally MacLeod receives treatment.

It's an astonishing deal and there is also talk of Best picking up a bonus if Hibs string some victories together. That can't be bad.

How, then, is George enjoying life in Scottish soccer? "I don't intend to muck up this chance that has been given to me by Hibs. There will be a lot of people expecting me to fall flat on my face, but it isn't going to happen."

"Hibs are a young team who need my experience. The players have been marvellous to me. They made me really feel at home and

already I feel like one of the boys."

And Best strongly denies the stories about there being dressing room disturbances when it was announced that he was arriving on such a huge salary. "One of the Hibs lads told me it was a load of nonsense and I believe him. The boys have gone out of their way to welcome me."

Best — whose grandfather was born in Glasgow and was named, what else, Jock Best — is determined to succeed this time around.

"I'm off the bevvy. I've had it so far as that is concerned. I'm not going around the nightclub scene, either. All that supposed glamour doesn't appeal any more."

"I've got the football bug again," he says. "I want to train and I want to play the game. I really want to get involved in it all again."

"I know I am a better player than a lot of the highly-priced players who are currently playing in the English First Division. It annoys me, even angers me a bit, when I see these players in action."

That anger is spurring on Best at the moment. He says: "If Mr. Hart or Mr. Turnbull would like me to come up to Edinburgh earlier in the week I will certainly comply with their wishes. They have given me this opportunity and I aim to repay them."

So, the George Best Roadshow is back on the road again. The amazing personality of Best is still there. Fans crowd around him, they want to see him, they want to touch him.

Best still has something to offer. He has loyalty to Hibs at the moment, but it would seem strange if an English First Division club didn't take careful note of his box office attraction as well as his shining skills, that haven't been dimmed by age.

"It was too much to ask to start my new career with a victory, I suppose," says Best. "The St. Mirren game was always going to be a hard one, but it was great to be involved again. Just marvellous."

Welcome back Yesterday's Hero — George Best!

HERO'

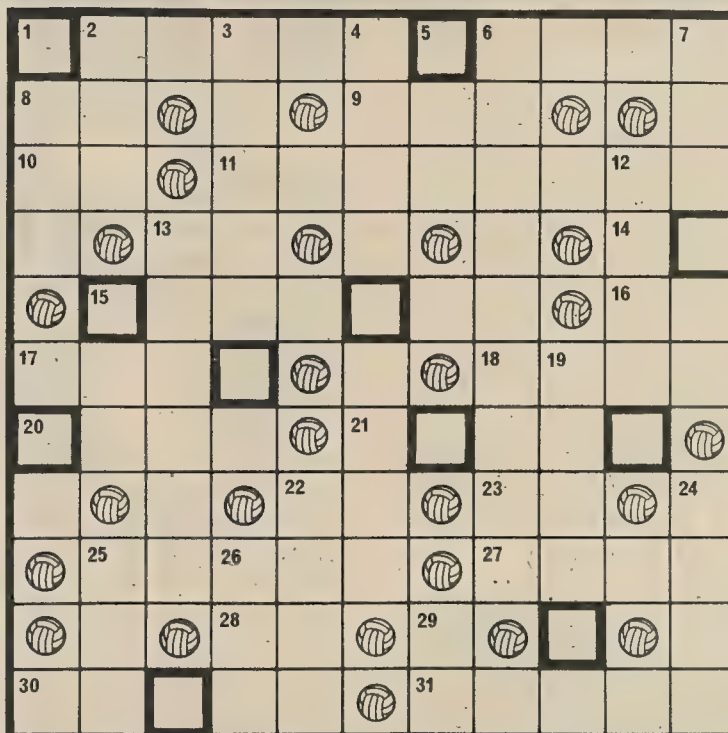


Go for the Double

After solving the clues in this specially compiled crossword, you can use the letters in the thick-edged squares to form the name of an Everton striker. Answers on page 31.

ACROSS:—

- (1) Derby County midfielder player. (5 & 6)
- (8) Bob S--koe, manager of Rochdale.
- (9) I-n--allac-, Coventry striker.
- (10) Gillingh-- from Priestfield Stadium.
- (11) — Park; home of Oldham Athletic.
- (13) Trevor --ss (Everton). The omissions reversed.
- (14) Eric G---es of Ipswich Town.
- (15) Something illustrating the general rule.
- (16) --bby Stiles, Preston manager.
- (17) --e --ros-, Chelsea striker.
- (18) Write one's name on a contract, for instance.
- (20) M--colm P-sk--tt, Brighton.
- (21) Pack or crowd together in close formation.
- (22) Billy --redith, famous Welsh international.
- (23) N--tes, famous French club.
- (25) — Street, Hereford United's ground.
- (27) — City; Fourth Division club from Bootham Crescent.
- (28) Mort-- , Scottish Premier Division team.
- (30) They were bottom of the Fourth Division, 1978/79.
- (31) — Mill, Mansfield Town's ground.



DOWN:—

- (1) — Bowles, Nottingham Forest midfielder player.
- (2) --- Finney, capped 76 times by England and twice Footballer of the Year.
- (3) Quiver . . . as the crossbar when struck by a hard shot.
- (4) Manchester City midfielder player. (4 & 5)
- (5) Ally Br--- of West Bromwich Albion.
- (6) Sheffield — from Hillsborough.
- (7) George —, Hereford captain.
- (12) Distance in which to shoot.
- (13) — United, English Third Division club.
- (15) Ray C---m-nce (Liverpool). The omissions reversed.
- (17) Mark ---renson of Brighton.
- (19) Take no notice of.
- (22) Manchester City play at --t-- Road.
- (24) Slide sideways.
- (25) Keith F--- of Brentford.
- (26) Gerry —, Bristol City midfielder player.
- (29) Hal--ax Town, English Fourth Division club.

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DEREK STARK
(Dundee Utd)

DUNDEE UNITED had just been beaten by Diosgyori in Hungary and knocked out of the U.E.F.A. Cup. Tannadice manager Jim McLean wasn't happy with his team's display and he pointed to a part-timer, defender Derek Stark, and said: "I wish some of our full-time players had his attitude. He hates to lose."

Stark, a garage mechanic by trade, may not be the most skilful player in the game, but he is definitely one of the most determined.

McLean has moved him into the right-back spot to fill the £400,000 gap left by Ray Stewart, who moved to West Ham this season. Derek, who has also played at centre-back, midfield and up-front, is as versatile as they come.

Over the years United have brought along youngsters such as Andy Gray, David Narey, Paul Sturrock, Graeme Payne and Stewart. They are rated as some of the best in Britain . . . Derek Stark is desperate to add his own name to that list.

AN intriguing game is to study a young player and decide whether he has that precious star potential. Bill Shankly did it with Denis Law and Kevin Keegan. Jock Stein did it with Kenny Dalglish. Other managers have done the same.

They have taken the raw material and worked on it, polishing the skills, making the strengths perfect, working on the weaknesses.

Scottish soccer has unearthed some precious gems in the past and SHOOT has taken another look into the crystal ball to name four more babes who could make it all the way to the top.

WHEN you first set eyes upon John McNeil you think of him as a ball-boy rather than a player. He is small, slightly built and has a schoolboyish smile.

However, on the field he certainly does a man-sized job and his unselfish running and dangerous penalty-box raiding is now a feature of Morton's bid for a place in one of next season's European tournaments.

Andy Ritchie might take top billing at Cappielow, but McNeil is more than just support cast. He even outshone his talented team-mate this season when he scored a goal against Partick Thistle that even big Andy would have been proud to claim as one of his own.

Young John picked up a header from Ritchie out on the right and swept past two tackles, cutting across the penalty box. Suddenly he stopped, swivelled and then rifled a low shot away from the desperately-diving Alan Rough.

Certainly one for John's scrapbook and we've got bad news for rival 'keepers and defences . . . there are a lot more where that one came from!

JOHN McNEIL
(Morton)



Scotland's shining youngSTARS

ANDY DUNLOP
(St. Mirren)

ST. MIRREN fans rated centre-back Bobby Reid better than former Love Street idol Gordon McQueen and Liverpool were reported to have first refusal on the player.

It would, therefore, take an exceptional youngster to take over from Reid, and Andy Dunlop has proved to have all the qualities to make sure St. Mirren have not missed the enforced absence of the injury-stricken Reid.

In Dunlop's first season, the spotlight inevitably fell upon Frank McGarvey and Tony Fitzpatrick, but this impressive youngster improved his technique quietly and efficiently.

He is a modern-day player with the skill of an inside-forward, always trying to work the ball forward.

So, note the name of Andy Dunlop. He can go all the way.

IAN REDFORD
(Dundee)

TO be christened the 'new' Alan Gilzean around Dens Park way is the highest compliment that can be bestowed upon a Dundee player.

Ian Redford is fortunate enough to have received that tag with his goalscoring form over the past two years. Ian is a real livewire in the attack and goes forward with courage and skill.

Redford is actually more versatile than Gilzean, who went on to make an even bigger name for himself with Spurs. His footwork is certainly better, although Gilzean's heading ability was far superior.

Arsenal have had Redford watched this season, but Dens Park manager Tommy Gemmell is in no hurry to part with his talented teenager. It would be ironic if the 'new' Gilzean should also take his extraordinary penalty box power to London.

Dundee fans want to shut that thought from their minds and enjoy the goals Redford sticks away with great regularity.



A GREAT YEAR

THE year of 1979 was good for me and for English football generally. Our national team has succeeded in qualifying for the final stages of a major competition — the European Championship — for the first time since 1968; and I'm proud to have played my part in the achievement.

Admittedly, the opposition in our Group did not include any of the strongest teams, but we qualified in such fine style we feel confident of meeting them on equal terms at least in Rome in June.

And Nottingham Forest became European Champions after beating Malmo of Sweden, keeping the much-prized trophy in England for the third year in succession. A disappointment is the continued failure of our clubs to do well in the two other Cup competitions: the U.E.F.A. Cup, and the Cup-Winners'.

It's good news that goals — what the game is all about — are on the increase; but bad news that crowds are shrinking. Apart from the fact that the more fans there are at a game the better the atmosphere, there's the disturbing knowledge that revenue is dropping.

It's difficult to pinpoint all the reasons for the falling attendances but there are several which occur to me quite readily.

Improve

Going to a game is a habit, and when a team hits a bad patch some of the less-dedicated fans often resolve to stay away until results improve. Unfortunately they don't always return, having found other things to do on a Saturday afternoon, and console themselves with the ration of TV football served up in the evening and on Sunday after lunch.

It's also becoming increasingly expensive to go to matches. The cost of travel, refreshments and a ticket can add up to between five and ten pounds.

And many grounds still do not cater for the comfort of the fans, failing to provide enough cover against the elements and also enough seating accommodation.

At Liverpool we pride ourselves on placing the fans first, but even our attendances are down on last year's figures. We've played a couple of times in front of crowds below 40,000, something unheard of previously.

Mind you, the high level of unemployment in the Merseyside area could account for the fact that fans are having to watch their pennies and pick their games.

The highlight of 1979 for Liverpool was winning the Championship and in the process setting up



"Kenny Dalglish is happy to stay with Liverpool"

several records: we conceded fewer goals than any other team had done before, it was our 11th title win, and we collected 68 points, one more than the record number Leeds United gained in 1969.

I was delighted to establish a new goalkeeping record — conceding only 16 goals in 42 League games. That feat earned me a Rothmans Football Award for 1979, a beautiful carriage clock presented to me before the game against Middlesbrough on December 1st, when we won in grand style, by 4-0.

These memories just about cancel out the black spots: such as losing to Manchester United in the F.A. Cup Semi-Final after a replay at Goodison Park; and again going out of the European Cup competition at the very first hurdle for the second year running.

After the Russian side, Dinamo Tbilisi, from Georgia, had given us

the k.o. we expected them to at least reach the Semi-Finals, even though they were prone to concede goals when playing away from home, and were amazed that Kevin Keegan's club, Hamburger SV, should halt them in the Second Round.

For Hamburger to win away in Tbilisi, where the Russians had everything going for them — in a stadium more impressive than Wembley as a stage, and with a 100,000 crowd much closer to the pitch — was a tremendous achievement.

I saw Kevin's goal on TV. He took it superbly.

But there's no point in going over what might have been. We've held our inquests and hope we've learned from those setbacks.

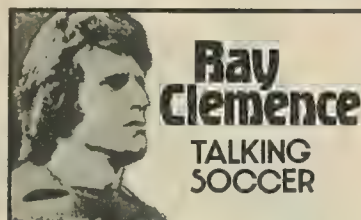
The start of a new year is the time for positive thinking, to pick out the targets I hope I can help my club

and country to hit.

First, the League Cup. After Liverpool's win over Norwich in the last round, we're looking forward to meeting Nottingham Forest in the Semi-Finals.

It's almost incredible that the least prestigious of the major trophies should so far have eluded the grasp of Liverpool, who can proudly claim to have been the most successful side of the 70's. League Championship and F.A. Cup, European and U.E.F.A. Cup — everyone of them has adorned the Anfield trophy room at least once; yet we've still to bring home the League Cup.

In fact, so far we've reached only one Final, where we met Nottingham Forest, now our most danger-



ous rivals, and lost in a replay to a disputed goal two seasons ago.

Then there's the League Championship — which we're well on course for — not only to prove we're the best and most consistent team in the land, but which will give us another chance to win the European Cup for a third time, and so equal teams such as Real Madrid, Ajax and Bayern Munich.

Another Cup in our sights is the F.A. Cup. We hope to take our first step towards winning it by beating Grimsby in the Third Round this Saturday.

1980 is going to be a very special year for me. For the first time I'll be part of an England team competing in the final stages of a major tournament. I'm looking forward to a summer to savour in Rome.

As things stand at the moment I see the home team Italy, West Germany and Holland as our main rivals for the European Championship — a trophy which no team from Britain has yet won.

Things are really shaping well for us. There's a magnificent spirit in Ron Greenwood's squad, we're blending well, working up a fine understanding which gets goals and also stops them, and most encouraging of all, have young reserves capable of replacing established first teamers.

AHEAD

This was exemplified in England's impressive 2-0 win over the Bulgarians at Wembley in November, when our manager fielded several youngsters.

Glenn Hoddle, of Spurs, made a dream-like debut, scoring the second goal with a superbly-directed side-footed shot from the edge of the area.

The other really impressive lad was Kenny Sansom of Crystal Palace, who revealed all the characteristics of an international full-back.

Tony Woodcock, one of the regulars, continued to display the unselfish style that makes him so valuable to a team. His running off the ball, something which Nottingham Forest are missing, is really appreciated by his team-mates.

Like Kevin Keegan, Tony has an agreement with his West German club Cologne that allows him to be released for international duty.

I predict we'll see more of our players transferring to Continental clubs, partly because it presents a new challenge, but mainly for the money.

'I've earned a Rothmans award for 1979'



A player can treble his wages, and also keep more of it owing to lower taxes; an important consideration in a career which ends at best around the mid-thirties.

It's important for our game we retain the most talented players and prevent them being creamed off by foreign clubs.

Like Don Howe, the Arsenal coach, I believe that one of the first changes we must make is to ban absurdly-high transfer fees. It's

rumoured that if Liam Brady announced he'd be willing to leave Arsenal for another League club, the fee would be two million pounds!

When even our biggest clubs are concerned about their finances, it's obvious something must be done about inflated fees.

If they were slashed, clubs would have the money to compete with the wages paid by foreigners.

Even so, only the handful of comparatively rich League clubs could afford the best talent, and so the creation of a "Super League" within the First Division will become more certain.

Thankfully, we at Liverpool — including Kenny Dalglish, whom many Continental clubs have cast covetous eyes on — are happy to remain with a club that treats us very well in every respect.

Right now we're preparing to meet Grimsby in the Cup on Saturday. The team who did so well in the League Cup this season will be no pushovers. We've often had trouble at Anfield with teams from lower Divisions!

Liam Brady

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PHOTO CASEBOOK

BOB LATCHFORD This is your soccer life



Consistently Everton's top scorer, Latchford made the headlines when he scored 30 League goals in the 1977-78 season. Three of those goals came against Coventry (above). His reward was an England call-up in November, 1977, for the game against Italy, with another new-boy Peter Barnes (right). England won 2-0. Closely marked by Roberto Mozzini, Bob still made a good first impression.



Bob's taste for goals developed at Birmingham. Left he beats off Larry Lloyd, then with Liverpool. In February, 1974, he was transferred to Everton for a then British record £350,000. Below he makes his first appearance for his new club, at West Ham.



After contractual problems with Everton, Bob is back among the goals this season. Here he causes problems for Manchester United (left). A classy player with a classy car — that's Bob Latchford with a Rolls-Royce after scoring two goals for England in their 4-0 victory over Northern Ireland at Wembley last February (above).

A brief history of the F.A. Cup

If anything is calculated to dispel some of the gloom of deep mid-winter it is the thrills and spills of the early rounds of the world's oldest competition, especially those involving the giants of the domestic game.

The early days of the F.A. Cup, contested by players sporting knickerbockers and caps on pitches with hardly any markings and using a tape as a crossbar, were thrown open to the whole of Britain, and this gave rise to some curious records.

It enabled Nottingham Forest to achieve the unique distinction of

the other home associations (Scottish and Irish) put a ban on their clubs entering the F.A. Cup.

The first F.A. Cup competition was staged in season 1871-72 when a strict knock-out system did not apply. Fifteen teams entered including Donington School (Spalding), the only side to have entered for the F.A. Cup but never to have played a tie since they later withdrew from the inaugural competition. Of the 'originals', Maidenhead and Marlow have never missed appearing in the F.A. Cup.

Teams drawing a Cup-tie were both allowed to proceed into the next round. Queen's Park went straight into the Semi-Finals on the strength of byes and the first Cup winners, a team of public

ASTON VILLA — all time Top of the Pots

having been drawn to play a Cup-tie in all four Home countries. They never actually completed the Irish leg of the record because Linfield, having held Forest in England, withdrew from the replay never to reappear in this tournament, thus making them the only club to remain unbeaten in the F.A. Cup.

In 1885, Forest were involved in the only F.A. Cup Semi-Final to be staged outside of England, drawing with Queen's Park in Edinburgh. This Scottish club was the star turn of the non-English entrants.

They were beaten Finalists in the successive years of 1884 and 1885, both times to Blackburn Rovers, and reached the last four on two other occasions, withdrawing both times because they could not afford to travel to London!

All Semi-Finals until 1882 were played in the capital. Glasgow Rangers also got as far as the Semi-Finals, defeat by Aston Villa preventing them from appearing in the 1887 Final. Shortly afterwards

schoolboys called The Wanderers, were exempted until the following season's Final and were allowed to choose its venue, thus giving Lillie Bridge, West London, its only moment of sporting significance.

The Wanderers were the 'Kings' of early F.A. Cup history, winning the trophy five times in the first seven years of its existence, including a hat-trick of victories from 1876 to 1878 — a feat which has been equalled only by Blackburn Rovers (1884-86) when Northern teams began to make their presence felt following a decade of domination by the Southern amateur clubs.

Wanderers had a right to keep the Cup following their third successive victory in 1878 but they handed it back to the F.A. on the understanding that it would never again be won outright. When Blackburn Rovers emulated the feat, they received a commemorative shield, but in 1895 the F.A. Cup was stolen from a Birmingham shop window and never recovered.

Fortunately, Wolves had given their players replicas of the trophy when they won it two years earlier so a new Cup was able to be



produced in the style of the missing one.

Tottenham Hotspur are the only other club to have emulated Wanderers' record of having won all five Finals in which they have appeared. The first of the Londoners' triumphs was as a Southern League team in 1901, the only occasion on which a non-League side has won the trophy.

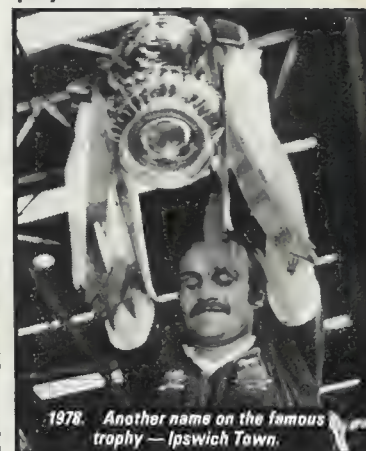
Apart from the brief excursion to Lillie Bridge, early Cup Finals were always played at Kennington Oval. However, attendances for the fixture rose from a meagre 2,000 for the 1872 game to over 20,000 twenty years later and this led Surrey County Cricket Club to withdraw the Oval as the Final venue because they were concerned at possible damage to their famous cricket pitch.

After a couple of 'one-off' Finals at Manchester and Everton, soccer's showpiece went next to Crystal Palace (but not to Selhurst Park, home of the present First Division club) for the rest of the pre-First World War period. After the War, Stamford Bridge was tried for three seasons before the Final settled at Wembley in 1923 where, despite a chaotic start there in which an estimated 150,000 saw the match, it has remained ever since.

Aston Villa are the all-time 'Top of the Pots'. They had won the Cup six times by 1920 but had to wait another 37 years for their only other success, achieved in controversial circumstances against pre-Munich Manchester United, to edge themselves in front of Blackburn Rovers and Newcastle with a record number of wins.

Between the Wars a new set of names came to the fore in Cup football. Huddersfield and Arsenal were the powers of the day, both having achieved three League Championships in a row (the only clubs to have done so) during the period but, in terms of Cup success, both were surpassed by Bolton Wanderers, who won all three Finals in which they appeared in the 1920's.

It was fitting that Arsenal and Manchester United should contest the last Final of the latest decade because these two famous sides had been involved in most post-War Finals. However, the 1970's also contributed four first-time winners, culminating in Ipswich's 1978 victory which made theirs the 40th different name on the trophy. Another of the new winners were Southampton in 1976 and they became the latest in a line of six Second Division sides to have taken the trophy, stretching back over 80 years to when Notts County had their success from outside the First Division in 1894 in the only Final played at Everton.



By no means all the glory of the F.A. Cup is confined to the Final. There are sensational deeds in the earlier rounds every season.

Some of the most notable giant-killing acts over the years have been Walsall's humbling of the mighty Arsenal in 1933, non-League Yeovil beating Sunderland in 1948, Bournemouth playing havoc with Spurs and Wolves 22 years ago and amazing feats which have led to Peterborough, Hereford and Wimbledon getting League status in the last couple of decades.

The lesser teams will be hoping for something similar in that most 'cosmopolitan' of all rounds, the Third, on Saturday, January 5th, when the First and Second Division sides appear for the first time in the 99th F.A. Cup competition.



Keep a round by round record of either the English or the Scottish competitions by filling in the team-names and scores. The results of each round will be published in the line-ups ... results ... scorers feature in **SHOOT**.

SHOOT F.



Derek Statham of WBA and Liverpool's David Johnson are two men sure to make an impact in this season's competition.



Norwich striker Kevin Reeves aims to show his England form in this season's F.A. Cup, but Stoke's Sammy Irvine will be no pushover.



West Ham's Billy Bonds clears against Newcastle in the League Cup, while Forest striker Tony Meakin looks on.

F.A.Cup 3rd.Round
Scottish Cup 2nd.Round



David Webb (dark strip, left) heads home a dramatic extra-time winner in the 1970 Final replay for Chelsea against Leeds. Aston Villa captain Dennis Mortimer (right) could create history by helping his side to a record eighth F.A. Cup triumph.



Medal-hunting John Fletcher of Dundee (left). In 1971 Arsenal became only the second team this century to win the League and F.A. Cup in the same season. Here Charlie George celebrates a Wembley win against Liverpool with George Graham and Eddie Kelly.



Tom Forsyth (No. 8) scores for Rangers in the 1973 Final against Celtic, and turns in triumph with team-mate Alfie Conn. Brighton have never enjoyed success in the F.A. Cup, they have failed to progress past the Fifth Round. But Brian Horton (right) seeks a change.

[illegible]

Who wants to be the man with the whistle?

We all have dreams of scoring a great solo goal, or of making a heroic goal-line clearance. In fact there probably is not one of the 22 players on the park that we wouldn't mind swapping places with. But what about the referee, the man who controls the game?

If you were asked the question, "What do you think of the average referee?" probably you would instantly reply with Eric and Ernie's well-known comment RUBBISH!

The players are, of course, the ones you go to see, and it is only natural that they should be the ones to get your praise and admiration. But the poor old referee not only seems to miss out on the glory and hero-worship, he also come in for much abuse and criticism. Dressed in black he becomes a pantomime demon, who stands for everything evil and bad — the

The action-replays and match reports in the paper act as unofficial judges on his performance, ready to pounce on any controversial incident.

Many believe that referees do a difficult job extremely well. But it is not just the League referee who the crowds love to hate.

The attitude of spectators, and often of players, towards the ref, is less than pleasant in park games, local Leagues and even in school soccer.

Whether it be Wembley or Wimbledon Common the ref still takes all the stick that is flying around.

SHOOT is not saying the ref is perfect, but we are pointing out that players and spectators alike are no nearer to perfection than the man in the middle. After all referees are only human. But what about a bit more tolerance for the ref?

It seems such a shame at school-boy level to see players arguing with the ref, disputing his decisions and not paying enough attention to playing the game.

Many refs aren't in control of a match just to hear the sound of their own whistle, or for any personal glory. Youth leaders, teachers and parents often go to great lengths and give up a lot of time to see that organised matches can be played. They are putting themselves out so that you lads can enjoy a game of soccer.

Criticise

If you turn out for a side and all the other players do is to criticise your play, call you 'Rubbish', and are openly hostile to you, what would you think? Probably, what's the point of you wasting your time with a load of ungrateful kids who can't get on with the job in hand . . . namely to play, and enjoy, a good game of soccer.

There is no reason why a ref should put up with such similar shoddy treatment!

Next time you go and see your favourite team and the referee gives a decision which you don't agree with, bite your tongue first and think about what he has done.

More often than not you will find the official to have been in the right. If he did make a mistake then at least it shows he is as human as the rest of us!

And when your goal is disallowed, don't waste time and effort bombarding the referee with insults.

Just think to yourself: "Would I like to be doing his job?"

TOPIC OF THE WEEK

enemy of the good players.

The referee is always on a hiding to nothing. Every decision he makes is wrong in someone's eyes.

Yet without him there would be no match!

So rather than being the villain of the piece, he is the man who makes the whole thing possible.

Referees handling League matches have the difficult job of controlling 22 professional athletes in a fast moving game in which a great deal can be at stake.

No laughing matter for Coventry's Bobby McDonald.



YOU ARE THE REF

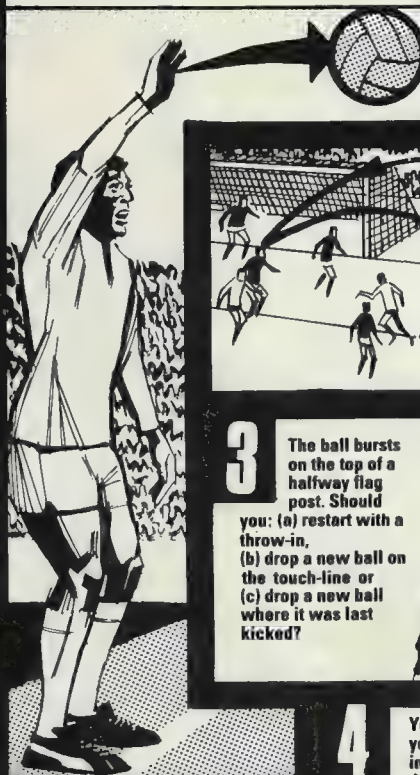
Compiled by CLIVE THOMAS

1

A player hurts his arm and takes a throw-in with one hand. Should you:
(a) award a throw-in to the opposition,
(b) take no action, or
(c) make the player retake the throw?

2

After centring the ball an attacker cannot prevent himself from running over the goal-line. The ball is headed back in his direction by an opponent. The attacker then runs back on the pitch and obtains possession. Should you:
(a) take no action,
(b) stop play and restart by dropping the ball or
(c) caution the attacker?



3

The ball bursts on the top of a halfway flag post. Should you:
(a) restart with a throw-in,
(b) drop a new ball on the touch-line or
(c) drop a new ball where it was last kicked?



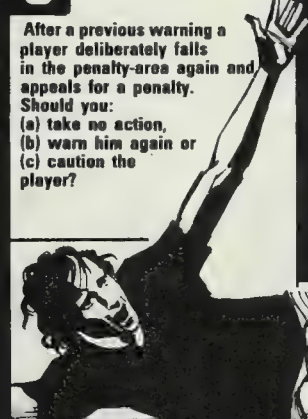
4

You are about to drop the ball when you see a defender kick an opponent inside the area. After dismissing the defender should you restart with:
(a) a drop ball or (b) a penalty-kick?



5

After a previous warning a player deliberately falls in the penalty-area again and appeals for a penalty. Should you:
(a) take no action,
(b) warn him again or
(c) caution the player?



ANSWERS

1. Award a throw-in to the opposition (a). 2. Take no action (a). 3. Restart with a throw-in (a). 4. A drop ball (a). 5. Caution the player (c). These days players are being called "cheats" because they are taking "dives" or getting other players sent off unnecessarily. I still believe that it is the referees who should be more professional and catch these players at their own game.

AMERICAN MARKETING FOR ENGLAND?

BEAU Rogers (below) sometimes known as T. Beauclerc Rogers III — whose clubs have won three national Championships in the United States, is coming to England. He has left Fort Lauderdale Strikers, where he was executive vice president, to start a new company, Omni Sports International, and Rogers who was also with the Philadelphia Atoms and Tampa Bay Rowdies, aims to modernise our clubs' approach to soccer.

He says: "The idea of the company is to explore every aspect of football, from management to marketing. I have already spoken with three clubs in the First and Second Divisions, and I am confident that 1980 will see me working in conjunction with a club in England."

"I realise what is good for America doesn't necessarily work in England, but there are plenty of things other than a band before the game to be tried. I hope to work closely with a club's marketing man, using his experience with my ideas."

Mark McCormack has become the world's number one sports business manager, with clients such as Jack Nicklaus and Björn Borg. Rogers says: "He's done a tremendous job. In England, busi-



ness managers tend to be frowned upon, but I hope to do a lot more for players than just earn a fast buck.

"Already I have players such as Alan Ball, Frank Worthington and Ted MacDougall on my books. Next year there will be no loan players from England in the NASL, but I hope to arrange for British players to do some coaching clinics, using their knowledge to teach American youngsters."

Rogers feels British players aren't properly exploited. "In the States, sports personalities are used far more in promotion and sponsorship, while things like insurance, pensions and income tax must be properly handled."

It was Rogers who introduced catch-phrases like "Soccer is a Kick in the Grass" and "Soccer is the Greatest Show on Turf" and any ideas which brighten soccer here must be good for the game.

GREEK clubs have been paying big salaries to foreign managers hoping to attract top men and win honours. But the turnover is rapid as was demonstrated when four First Division managers were axed within 48 hours.

Iraklis dismissed Polish boss Anton Brzezanczyk (ex Rapid Vienna); Jannina sacked former Greek international Nikos Alefantos, and Rhodes got rid of Christos Bellis.

But the big surprise was crack club Panathinaikos dismissing ex-Greek national team boss Lakis Petropoulos. Eager to win the title, Pan are almost traditional Champions and only ten days earlier had extended their manager's contract to the end of 1982.

A surprise defeat, 0-1 away to unfashionable Larissa, caused a flap and the boss got the chop.

LESS SOCCER IN BRAZIL

THE National Sports Council has decreed that from 1980 on no Brazilian club team can play more than 70 games a year, and also that they can not play again within 72 hours of their last game. The measures were taken after many complaints from players and the Press alike, who are of the opinion that Brazilian players don't have enough rest and as a consequence are always out of condition. As expected, the clubs are not happy. They point out that the limits should be imposed on the number of games each player plays and not the team. And they want the 72 hours ban reduced to 60.

Spanish club Rayo Vallecano reckon that the £325,000 they paid for Uruguay's super-striker Fernando Morena was money well-spent. Morena's goals have not only helped humble Rayo to a comfortable position in mid-table, but he's also brought fans flocking to the 'unfashionable' stadium in the Madrid suburbs. Gate receipts from Rayo's first six home matches totalled just over £400,000!



BUNDESLIGA club Eintracht Braunschweig are a multi-sport club but have found no success in football since winning the Championship in 1967. Hoping to improve their results, they called in a psychologist. He made 'intensive studies' and reports ran to more than 150 type-written pages on each player.

Meanwhile Braunschweig are facing relegation and their fans feel their problems are simply explained. Last summer they sold Harald Nickel to Borussia Monchengladbach, and he is now the League's top scorer.

BRIGHTON'S MISSED BARGAIN

REMEMBER Didier Christophe? The young French player that Brighton almost signed from Monaco? The Seagulls finally backed out of the £125,000 deal after certain journalists had pointed out that Christophe wasn't even a first-team regular at Monaco.

But now the young midfielder is a regular first-teamer, and is one of the main reasons why Monaco are leading the French Championship.

He was also called into the national team for the recent match against Czechoslovakia, and it looks as though Brighton missed out on a bargain!

News flashes

If Italy win the European Championship next June, manager Enzo Bearzot (below) wants the manager of the beaten Finalists to pick a Rest of Europe XI from the last eight teams to play against Italy in Rome, four days after the Final.



Foreigners are banned from playing in all countries of Eastern Europe — with one notable exception. In East Germany there are 17 Russians playing with Second Division clubs. They are not allowed to play in the Oberliga and not surprisingly they are all serving soldiers in the Russian Army posted to East Germany.

Troubled Werder Bremen, with money to spend after the re-sale of England's Dave Watson, sent manager Rudi Assauer off on a trip to watch forwards they desperately need. Assauer drove nearly 4,000 miles by car to watch four recommended strikers in Switzerland, Austria and Yugoslavia, but disappointed in them all, came back empty handed.

Yugoslavia's top scorer of all time is Franjo Matosic who played 739 games for Hajduk Split, scoring 729 goals. Celebrating his 60th birthday, he was presented with a trophy and flowers before the Hajduk-Dynamo Zagreb League match.

Turkey's 1-0 win over Wales was a fairly predictable result if their League matches are anything to go by. Few teams score more than once and only 127 goals were scored in the first 70 matches of the League programme.

MENOTTI v. COUTINHO (CONT.)

ARGENTINA'S César Luis Menotti and Brazil's Cláudio Coutinho seem to be at odds again. Speaking to the Argentinian Press, Menotti ascribed all the current troubles in which Brazilian football finds itself (Brazil were knocked out of the South American Cup by Paraguay) to Coutinho's reluctance to accept the Brazilian manager's post full-time.

"Coutinho has to resort to second-hand information to call players to the Brazilian team because all his time is devoted to Flamengo, where he is also the manager," says Menotti.

Coutinho, is also under heavy charges in Brazil, where many journalists consider him arrogant in his dealings with the Press and, at the same time, too submissive to his club's and the Brazilian F.A.'s directors.

No kind of comment has been offered to Menotti's words yet, but the facts bear witness to the Argentinian manager.

For the first match against Paraguay, when Brazil were defeated 2-1 in Asuncion, Coutinho called up Jair, on the advice of another player, Falcão. Both play for Internacional from Porto Alegre. Jair's performance was so disappointing that Coutinho replaced him in the second half.

"Falcão had told me he was a very good player," was Coutinho's lame excuse.

FRENCH free-kick expert, Michel Platini, broke a five-month 'duck' when he scored his first goal from a set piece during Saint-Etienne's epic 6-0 victory over PSV Eindhoven.

Platini justified his lack of free-kick bulls-eyes by explaining that 'Las Varts' keeper Curkovic always insisted on a super-inflated ball for home matches because he reckons it's easier to handle — whereas Platini prefers a softer, more 'bendable' ball for his free-kicks.

The international midfielder player finally got his way for the PSV match, and duly obliged with a brilliantly-struck free-kick.

In Tunisia, Club Africain started the League in style by taking 15 points from their opening five matches. (Oh, er... before you write letters of complaint, a win is worth three points in most North African Leagues!)

Following Bob Houghton (below) who led Malmö to the Swedish Championship in 1978 and then the last European Cup Final, Englishman Roy Hodgson has steered BK Hälsjstadt to the Championship for the second time in their history. Top League scorer was Mats Werner of Hammarby who scored 14 goals, the lowest top scorer total since the Swedish League began 55 years ago.



MID-TERM



FROM the point of view of English soccer, it was never on the cards to be an easy season. There were too many problems to be sorted out on too many fronts.

First, England just had to qualify for the final stages of the European Championship in Italy next summer.

They muffed the last two — just as they had the last two World Cups — and, though the prospects looked decidedly rosier this time, points actually in the bag (and not just theoretically there for the taking) were needed.

As things turned out — thanks to workmanlike victories over Denmark, Northern Ireland and Bulgaria — England got there comfortably enough with still a Wembley game to play.

Then there was the twin-headache of rapidly rising costs and diminishing returns through the gate.

The ridiculous transfer-spiral didn't exactly help the first — the "unbeatable" £1 million Trevor Francis move last season twice



Southampton's Dave Watson (above, left) and Everton's Asa Hartford (above), two internationals settling in after unhappy spells with Werder Bremen and Nottingham Forest respectively.

being upped by some 50 per cent before this one had hardly kicked-off — while hooliganism, just as much as admission prices, bedevilled the latter.

Yet, by mid-season, there are at least some mildly heartening signs on the horizon. Transfers (for the moment, anyway) seem to have settled-down around the "economical" half-million mark ... if only because the likes of Kenny Dalglish and Liam Brady aren't yet available.

Perhaps, too, there won't be any more embarrassing hiccups like Asa Hartford's transfer from Forest to Everton only a handful of games after he'd arrived there from Manchester City.

The talented Hartford himself was the innocent victim of circumstances, though Brian



national team-mates Dave Watson, Laurie Cunningham, and Tony Woodcock.

Watson quickly returned but, although sorry to see them go from our domestic scene, we can only wish all the best to the others.

For providing, like Keegan, they can ensure their England calls can always be answered ... a few switches between countries really can't be all that bad.

After all, in return for our

Tony Woodcock (left) in his new Cologne strip. Liverpool made their European Cup exit in the First Round once again, this time to Dinamo Tbilisi (below).



Clough's part can be viewed two ways.

Some admire Clough's courage in publicly admitting his original mistake after finding it just didn't work out in the role he envisaged; others reckon he might have done his homework more soundly in the first place.

There was also the threat — if one can realistically call it that for, after all, trade in footballers is a two-way thing — of top League stars being lured to the Continent.

England superstar Kevin Keegan had already gone and, before November was out, he'd been joined across the Channel by inter-

exports, we have had some entertaining imports in the shape of such as Ardiles, Villa, Muhren, and the rest.

The first half of the season saw some surprising fluctuations of fortune on the club front.

In Liverpool and Forest, England had the bonus of two clubs in the European Cup — and these were also the pair most thought would dominate the domestic scene from start to finish as well.

Come the end of the season, of course, and it would still take a very brave punter to bet much against it.

But, at least by their own stan-

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REPORT

An analysis of the first half of the English season



beaten 4-1 at Southampton — Forest crashed by a similar score at Derby, one of Clough's old clubs, for their third League defeat on the trot; the first time that's happened for some four years.

By this time, though, Liverpool had recovered most of their old formidable poise — and there's nothing to suggest that Forest won't soon enough do the same.

And, come to think of it, it's probably not such a bad thing that the Top Dogs get a bit of come-uppance now and again. The game would be far less interesting if no one else — just now and again — didn't get a look-in.

Not that anyone could ever call Manchester United an also-ran!

Viv Anderson of Forest and Peter O'Sullivan of Brighton (left). Neither team has found life as easy as they had hoped for. Steve Coppell (below) has helped Manchester United to the top, but Mike Flanagan (right) has been equally important to Crystal Palace.



dards, both kicked-off on decidedly bumpy pitches.

Liverpool, headline-makers if they lose, did just that — and who would have thought, as October dawned, they would be in an embarrassing mid-table position averaging a mere point-a-game?

Not to mention — having brilliantly won the trophy two seasons running — now having been k.o'd from the European Cup at first attempt for the second successive year.

Champions Forest have, of course, reached the Quarter-Finals ready for next March — but, League-wise, the Clough-Taylor Aladdin's Lamp has been astonishingly fickle.

On the third Saturday of November, Forest tumbled to their first home League defeat in 52 matches.

O.K., so a superb run like that just had to end sometime — but it was still ironic that it was bottom-club Brighton who did the damage.

Then by the fourth Saturday of the month — having also been

Nonetheless, in recent years they've been off-the-ball at times, and to see them topping the First Division again this season has been a welcome sight to many far from Old Trafford itself.

But, if United were getting a much more settled look in the first half of the season, one could hardly say the same for neighbours City.

It's true that the arrival of Big Mal Allison, having taken over team-affairs from Tony Book, is bound to blow something of a hurricane around any ground.

Certainly it did at Maine Road — with players in-and-out even more than the results.

But the flamboyant Allison, one of the shrewdest coaches around, could well put egg on a number of critics' faces in the future — and, even by mid-term, there were signs that things were settling into a much more promising pattern than the original upheaval might have suggested.

Talking of managers... inevitably the usual crop bit the dust in the first half of the season, though

at least one "young 'un" looks set for a run well into his older years.

Who, honestly, would have expected newly-promoted Palace to be topping the First Division table early on, and still be breathing down the necks of the leaders by mid-way?

True, they have a healthy-looking blend of good-buys and talented youngsters. But they also have an exceptionally able young manager in Terry Venables, who could well be in line for the England job one day.

Not, of course, that anyone expects Ron Greenwood to stand down, let alone be pushed out, for

quite a while yet. Not with a record that's second to none in the contemporary stakes.

Three European Championship games this season have seen three more victories to bring up Greenwood's overall score to 15 wins and five draws in his 22 matches in charge. And a goal-tally of 44 to 15 substantially helps boost the form-book in the England manager's favour.

What happens in the second half of the campaign has, of course, yet to reveal itself — and the festive season just ended is invariably a kind of "sorting-out" period.

A hefty League programme is immediately followed by two vital F.A. Cup rounds in three weeks — with the usual quota of fancied clubs biting the dust (or mud!) almost before they've even hit the Wembley trail — and the shape of honours to come begins to look a wee bit clearer.

In the promotion stakes it's interesting to note that so many of the mid-season front-runners are clubs relegated only last spring.

Q.P.R., Chelsea and Birmingham all went down from the First then — and are all right there in the hunt for the quickest route back. And Millwall and Sheffield United, having dropped down from the Second, top their own race to get back up again.

But that's for the next few months to tell, and no honours are handed out for mid-term success.

So much can happen unexpectedly to upset the best-laid plans and hopes — just as last year's appalling January and February weather, with its mounting backlog of games to be fitted-in, came to wipe-out a number of Christmastime dreams of 12 months ago.

Only one thing is certain — and that is that Italy-booked England are in the final stages of any major international tournament for the first time in 12 years.

It's just a pity that they have to go it alone without the company of their League-club friends from the other Home countries.



Altrincham (left) could be the surprise team of the F.A. Cup, as they proved against Crewe in the First Round. Q.P.R.'s Clive Allen (below) spearheads their push for promotion.



LINE-UPS...RESULTS...SCORERS...

Tues., November 20

UEFA UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP

ENGLAND (3) 5 (Crooks 3 (1 pen), Hilaire, Birtles)
BULGARIA (0) 0 at Leicester 5,758
 England: Woods; Ranson, Dennis, Gilbert, Butcher, Robson, Cowans, Hilaire, Birtles, Crooks, Rix.
 Bulgaria: Velinov; Besinsky, Malinov, Blangev, Deliminkov, Tchavdakov, Vassilev, Jevetkov, Naidenov, Lahtchiev, Simeonov.

BELGIUM (0) 0
SCOTLAND (1) 1 (McCluskey)
 at Beveren 3,000
 Belgium: Preud'homme; Devriese, Ipermans, De Greef, Mariman, Cluytens, Plessers, Mommens, Electeur, Snelders, Dardenne.
 Scotland: Thomson; Stewart, Dawson, Orr, McNichol, Aitken, Strachan, Bannon, McCluskey, Brazil, Ritchie.

Wed., November 21

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

BELGIUM (1) 2 (Van der Elst, Voordeckers)
SCOTLAND (0) 0 in Brussels 15,000
 Belgium: Custers; Gerats, Millecamps (L), Meeuws, Renquin, Cools, Van der Eycken, Van der Elst, Van Moer (Verheyen), Cuelemans, Voordeckers.
 Scotland: Rough; Jardine, Munro (Gray), Wark, Hansen, Miller, Dalglish, Souness, Jordan (Proven), Hartford, Robertson.

N. IRELAND (0) 1 (Armstrong)
REPUBLIC OF IRELAND (0) 0 at Windsor Park 15,000
 N. Ireland: Jennings; Nicholl (J), Nelson, Nicholl (C), Hunter, McCreery, O'Neill (Cassidy), McIlroy, Armstrong, Spence, Moreland.
 Rep of Ireland: Kearns; Devine, Grimes, O'Leary (P), O'Leary (D), Martin, Grealish, Daly (Waters), Heighway, McGee (Givens), Stapleton.

TURKEY (0) 1 (Onal)
WALES (0) 0 in Izmir 40,000
 Turkey: Senol; Turgay, Fath, Erol, Cem, Erhan, Onal, Mehmet-Eski, Isa (Sadullah), Arif, Sedat, Mustafa (B), (Mustafa K).
 Wales: Davies (D); Stevenson, Jones, Yorath, Berry, Phillips, Davies (G) (Mahoney), Nicholas, Walsh (Edwards), Curtis, Edwards.



Francois Van Der Elst (white strip, left) turns after scoring against Scotland.

Thurs., November 22

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

ENGLAND (1) 2 (Watson, Hoddle)
BULGARIA (0) 0 71,491
 England: Clemence; Anderson, Sansom, Thompson, Watson, Wilkins, Reeves, Hoddle, Francis, Kennedy (R), Woodcock.
 Bulgaria: Christov; Karakolev, Dimitrov (B), Bonev, Iliev, Dimitrov (G), Barzov, Markov, Velichkov (Manolov), Jeliazkov, Tzvetkov (Kostadinov).

Fri., November 23

F.A. CUP, FIRST ROUND

PORT VALE (1) 1 (Beech)
DONCASTER (1) 3 (Lewis, Pugh, Nimmo) 4,973
 Port Vale: Dance; Keenan, Griffiths, Beech, Bowles, Sproson, Woolfall, Farrell, Wright, Jones, Bentley.
 Doncaster: Peacock; Russell, Snodin, Lister, Lally, Dowd, Pugh, Nimmo, Warboys, Lewis, Flanagan.



David O'Leary of Arsenal (right) threatens Liverpool's defence with a powerful header.

Sat., November 24

First Division

ARSENAL (0) 0
LIVERPOOL (0) 0 55,561
 Arsenal: Jennings; Devine, Nelson, Talbot, O'Leary, Young, Gattin, Sunderland, Stapleton, Price, Rix.
 Liverpool: Clemence; Neal, Kennedy (A), Thompson, Kennedy (R), Hansen, Dalglish, Case, Johnson, McDermott, Souness.

ASTON VILLA (0) 0
LEEDS (0) 0 29,736
 Aston Villa: Rimmer; Swain, Pejic, Evans, McNaught, Mortimer, Bremner, Little, Geddis, Cowans, Shaw.
 Leeds: Lukic; Cherry, Stevenson, Hamson, Hart, Greenhoff, Hird; Graham, Connor, Curtis, Gray.

COVENTRY: Sealey; Coop, McDonald, Gooding, Holton, Gillespie, Hutchison, Wallace, Ferguson, Blair, Hunt.

DERBY (3) 4 (Daly, Duncan 2, Emery)
NOTTM FOREST (0) 1 (Robertson (pen)) 27,729
 Derby: McKellar; Langan, Buckley, Daly (Emson), Webb, Osgood, Emery, Powell, Duncan, Davies, Clark.
 Nottm Forest: Shilton; Anderson, Gray, McGovern, Lloyd, Needham, O'Neill, Mills, Birtles, Francis, Robertson.

EVERTON (1) 1 (Latchford)
TOTTENHAM (1) 1 (Jones) 31,071
 Everton: Hodge; Gidman (Lyons), Bailey, Wright, Higgins, Ross, Hartford, Stanley, Latchford, Kidd, King.
 Tottenham: Aleksic; Hughton, McAllister, Yorath, Smith, Perryman, Ardiles, Jones, Armstrong, Hoddle, Villa.

IPSWICH (3) 3 (Gates, Wark, Brazil)
SOUTHAMPTON (0) 1 (Williams) 18,685
 Ipswich: Cooper; Burley, Butcher, Mills, Osman, Beattie, Wark (D'Avray), Muhren, Mariner, Brazil, Gates.
 Southampton: Wells; Golac (Andruszewski), Holmes, Williams, Watson, Waldron, Ball, Boyer, Channon, Nicholl, Hebbard.

MAN. UTD (3) 5 (Macari, Moran, Coppell, Jordan 2)
NORWICH (0) 0 46,540
 Man. Utd: Bailey; Nicholl, Grimes, McIlroy, Moran, Buchan, Coppell, Wilkins, Jordan, Macari, Thomas.
 Norwich: Keelan; Bond, Downes, Taylor, Brown, Powell, McGuire, Reeves, Fashanu (Barham), Paddon, Peters.

MIDDLESBROUGH (1) 1 (Burns)
BRIGHTON (0) 1 (Williams) 16,010
 Middlesbrough: Platt; Craggs, Peters, Natrass, Ashcroft, McAndrew, Johnston, Bell (Cochrane), Hodgson, Burns, Armstrong.
 Brighton: Moseley; Suddaby, Williams, Horton, Foster, Stevens (Clark), Ryan, Ward, Clarke, Lawrenson, O'Sullivan.

STOKE (1) 1 (O'Callaghan)
BOLTON (0) 0 15,435
 Stoke: Jones; Evans, Dodd, Johnson (P), Johnson (P.A), Doyle, Irvine, Heath, O'Callaghan, Crooks, Randall.
 Bolton: McDonagh; Clement (Burke), Nicholson, Greaves, Jones, Walsh, Morgan, Whatmore, Gowling, Cantello, McNab.

WOLVES (0) 0
W.B.A. (0) 0 32,564
 Wolves: Bradshaw; Palmer, Parkin, Daniel, Hughes, Berry, Hibbitt, Carr, Gray, Richards, Thomas.
 W.B.A.: Godden; Batson, Pendrey, Mills, Wile, Robertson, Robson, Brown (A), Deehan, Owen, Regis.

Second Division

BURNLEY (2) 5 (Burke, Dobson, Biley og, James, Tate)
CAMBRIDGE (2) 3 (Gibbins, Smith, Biley) 6,802
 Burnley: Stevenson; Arins, Brennan, Burke, Overson (V), Dixon, James, Dobson, Fletcher (Cavener), Tate, Young.
 Cambridge: Webster; Calderwood, Smith, Stringer, Fallon, O'Neill, Biley, Murray, Reilly, Gibbins, Christie.

FULHAM (0) 0
WATFORD (0) 0 10,126
 Fulham: Digweed; Peters, Strong, Money, Hatter, Gale, Greenaway, Beck, Guthrie, Lock, Davies.
 Watford: Steele; Henderson, Harrison, Booth, Sims, Bolton, Pollard, Blissett, Ward (Pritchett), Train, Roston.

LEICESTER (2) 2 (Strickland, Henderson)
WREXHAM (0) 0 15,316
 Leicester: Wallington; Williams, Rofe, May, O'Neill, Strickland, Lineker, Byrne, Young,

Smith Henderson.
Wrexham: Davies; Darracott, Dwyer, Davis, Jones, Fox, Vinter, Sutton, Edwards, McNeil, Cartwright.

LUTON (1) 2 (Moss pen, Stein)
BIRMINGHAM (1) 3 (Bertschin 3) 13,720
 Luton: Findlay; Stephens, Donaghy, Grealish, Saxby, Price, Hill, West, Stein, Hatton, Moss.
 Birmingham: Wealands; Lees, Dennis, Curbishley, Gallagher, Todd, Lynex, Towers, Bertschin, Dillon, Johnston.

NOTTS CO (1) 2 (Hooks, O'Brien)
CHELSEA (2) 3 (Britton, Walker 2) 12,646
 Notts Co: Avramovic; Richards, O'Brien, Hunt (Christie), Stubbs, Kilcline, McCulloch, Masson, Hooks, Benjamin, Mair.
 Chelsea: Borota; Locke, Wilkins, Bumstead, Droy, Chivers, Britton, Fillery, Frost, Walker, Harris.

OLDHAM (0) 0
SHREWSBURY (1) 2 (Maguire 2) 6,332
 Oldham: McDonnell; Wood, Keegan, Hilton (Gardner), Clements, Holt, Valentine, Blair, Stainrod, Atkinson, Heaton.
 Shrewsbury: Mulhearn; King, Larkin, Tong, Griffin, Keay, Maguire, Atkins, Lindsay, Dungworth, Biggins.

PRESTON (0) 2 (Bruce, Elliott)
ORIENT (1) 2 (Penfold, Taylor) 7,835
 Preston: Tunks; Taylor, Wilson, Burns, Baxter, O'Riordan, Bell, Haslegrave, Elliott, Potts, Bruce.
 Orient: Day; Fisher, Roffey, Mayo, Penfold, Taylor, Chiedozie, Hughton, Moores, Jennings, Coates.

Q.P.R. (1) 4 (Allen 2 (1 pen), Bowles, Roeder)
CHARLTON (0) 0 13,003
 Q.P.R.: Woods; Shanks, Wallace, McCreery, Hazell, Wicks, Bowles, Roeder, Allen, Waddock, Goddard (Burke).
 Charlton: Johns; Hazell, Campbell, Tydeman, Berry, Madden, Powell, Wilson (Churchouse), Hales, Walker, Gritt.

SWANSEA (0) 2 (Charles, James)
NEWCASTLE (2) 3 (Hibbitt, Shoulder, Rafferty) 15,442
 Swansea: Letheran; Evans, Rushbury, Charles, Phillips, Stevenson, Craig, Attley, James, Mahoney, Callaghan (Waddle).
 Newcastle: Hardwick; Brown, Davies, Martin, Barton, Boam, Shoulder, Cartwright (Connolly), Withe, Rafferty, Hibbitt.

SUNDERLAND (3) 3 (Elliott, Cummins, Robson)
BRISTOL R (0) 2 (Parkinson, White) 21,793
 Sunderland: Turner; Whitworth, Bolton, Clarke, Elliott, Buckley, Arnott, Cummins, Cooke, Robson, Dunn.
 Bristol R: Jones (G), Barrowclough, Williams, Mabbutt, Taylor, Aitken, Bator, Parkinson, White, Dennehy (Jones V), Pulis.

WEST HAM (2) 3 (Cross, Stewart 2 pens)
CARDIFF (0) 0 20,292
 West Ham: Parkes; Stewart, Lampard, Bonds, Martin, Holland, Allen, Pearson, Cross, Brookling, Devonshire.
 Cardiff: Davies; Jones (Stevens), Sullivan, Campbell, Pontin, Thomas, Bishop, Dwyer, Moore, Ronson, Lewis.

F. A. CUP, FIRST ROUND

ALDERSHOT (2) 4 (Crosby, Jopling, Brodie, Giles o.g.)
EXETER (0) 1 (Neville) 4,846
 Aldershot: Johnson; Scott, Wooler, Dixon, Bennett, Jopling, Crosby (Green), Brodie, French, Needham, McGregor.
 Exeter: O'Keefe; Mitchell, Hatch, Hore, Giles, Roberts (L), Neville, Pearson, Bowker, Delve, Forbes (Rogers, P).

ALTRINCHAM (1) 3 (Rogers, Whitbread, Wilson)
CREWE (0) 0 5,001

LINE-UPS...RESULTS...SCORERS...

Altrincham: Stepney; Barrow, Davison (Wilson), Bailey, Owens, King, Heathcote, Whitbread, Johnson, Rogers, Howard.
Crews: Rafferty; Wilkinson, Bowers, Hunter, Scott, Prophett, McMahon, Guy, Chesters (Lewis), Nelson, Coyne.

BARKING (0) 1 (Brothers)
OXFORD (0) 0 1,292
Barking: Markwick; Barrett, Makin, Arber, Dingwall, Ironton, Ballard, Brothers, Burton, Key, Ashford.
Oxford: Burton; McIntosh, Fogg, Briggs, Stott, Jeffrey, McGrogan (Graydon), Duncan, Berry, Cooke, Hodgson.

BARNSELY (1) 5 (Clarke, Glavin 2, Aylott, Lester)
HARTLEPOOL (1) 2 (Linacre, Newton) 12,548

Barnsley: Springett; Flavell, Collins, Hunter, McCarthy, Pugh, Glavin, Clarke, Lester, Banks (Riley), Aylott.
Hartlepool: Burleigh; Gorry, Carr, Lawrence, Higgins, Ayre, Linacre, Houchen, Newton, Harding, Loadwick.

BLACKPOOL (1) 1 (McEwan)
WIGAN (0) 1 (Methven) 11,277
Blackpool: Hesford; Gardner, Pashley, Thompson, Ashurst, McEwan, Hockaday, Doyle, Spence (Wilson), Kellow, Weston.
Wigan: Brown; Fretwell, Hinnigan, Gore, Methven, Davids, Corrigan, Wright, Houghton, Quinn, Urquhart

BLYTH SPARTANS (0) 0
MANSFIELD (2) 2 (McClelland, Allen) 4,433
Blyth: Clarke; Waterson, Walker, Varty, Houghton, Dixon, Davies, Young, Marshall (Guthrie), Mutrie, Dalgleish.
Mansfield: Arnold; Dawkins, Wood, Hamilton, Bird, McClelland, Lathan, Taylor, Austin, Mann (Curtis), Allen.

BRANDON (0) 0
BRADFORD C (2) 3 (Gallagher, Dolan, McNiven) (at Spennymoor) 4,200
Brandon: Charlton; Madden, Gibbon (P), Ogden (Marshall), Hallimond, Brown, Dods-worth, Gibbon (D), Crudas, Regan, Joyce.
Bradford C: Smith; Reaney (Jones), Watson, Wood, Baines, Cooper, Gallagher, Dolan, Stanforth, McNiven, Martinez.

BURSCOUGH (0) 0
SHEFF UTD (1) 3 (McPhail, Speight, Matthews) (at Brammall Lane) 14,209
Burscough: O'Brien; Garland, Blakeman, Moran, Tickle, Reed, Nolan (Bannister), London, Jaycock, Duffy, Taylor.
Sheff Utd: Conroy; Cuthbush, Tibbott, Kenworthy, McPhail, Matthews, Speight, Bourne (Flood), Butlin, Garner, Sabella.

BURTON (0) 0
BURY (2) 2 (Madden, Hilton) 4,501
Burton: Alcock; Hindley, Ferguson, Fletcher,

Annable, Dolby, Moore, Fearn, Nixon, Blair, Harrison.
Bury: Forrest; Ritson, Halford, Waldron, Whitehead, Howard, Madden, Wilson, Johnson, Hilton, Taylor.

CARLISLE (2) 3 (Bonnyman pen, Ludlam, Bannon)
HULL (0) 3 (Roberts, Tait, Haigh) 4,970
Carlisle: Swinburne; Hoodickin, Winstanley, MacDonald, Ludlam, Parker, McVitie, Bonnyman, Bannon, Hamilton, Stanforth.
Hull: Blackburn; Hood, Skipper (Farley), Haigh, Dobson, Nisbet, Roberts, Moss, Edwards, Tait, Hawker.

CHESTER (3) 5 (Henderson 2, Sutcliffe, Jones, Rush)
WORKINGTON (1) 1 (Diamond) 2,934
Chester: Millington; Raynor, Walker, Storton, Cottam, Oakes (Jeffries), Sutcliffe, Jones, Rush, Henderson, Phillips.
Workington: Fisher; Kisby, Rosethorn, Maggiore, Johnston, Reach, Matthews, Diamond, Crelling (Thompson), Gill, Donaghy.

COLCHESTER (1) 1 (Rowles)
PLYMOUTH (0) 1 (Hodges) 4,064
Colchester: Walker; Cook, Packer, Leslie, Wright, Downman, Hodge, Gough, Foley, Lee, Rowles.
Plymouth: Crudginton; James, McNeill, Randall, Foster, Phillips-Masters, Hodges, Cooper, Sims, Bason, Graves.

DARLINGTON (0) 1 (Stalker)
HUDDERSFIELD (1) 1 (Hart) 3,678
Darlington: Owers; Nattress, Cochrane, Ball, Craig, Smith, McLean, Charlton, Stalker, Ellis (Welsh), Taylor.
Huddersfield: Starling; Brown, Robinson, Stanton, Sutton, Topping, Laverick, Hart, Fletcher, Robins, Purdie.

ENFIELD (0) 0
YEOVIL (1) 1 (Green) 1,585
Enfield: Moore; Gibson, Tone, Jennings, Elley, Howell, O'Sullivan, Borland, Bishop, Glover, King.
Yeovil: Parker; Battans, Payne, Jones, Harrison, Broom, Morrall, Turner, Green, Cottle, Houseley.

FAREHAM (1) 2 (Atkins, Warren)
MERTHYR (2) 3 (Pratt 3) 1,500
Fareham: Grant; Atkins, Jackson, Annalls, Reid, Cole, St. Ledger (Stewart), Albury, Brown, Callaghan, Warren.
Merthyr: Payne; Petherbridge, Jones (P), Holvey, Rossar, Doherty, Sullivan, Jones (D), cavie, Pratt, Batt (Elliott).

GILLINGHAM (0) 0
WIMBLEDON (0) 0 7,027
Gillingham: Hillyard; Young, Barker, Overton, Weatherley, Crabbe, Nicholl, White, Price, Westwood, Richardson (Summeril).
Wimbledon: Goddard; Briley, Jones, Galliers, Bowgett, Cunningham, Dziadulewicz, Parsons, Leslie (Downes), Cork, Lewington.

GRAVESEND (0) 0
TORQUAY (1) 1 (Cooper) 3,322
Gravesend: Smelt; Idle, Wallis, Keirs, Streeter, Osborne, Brown, Jacks, Stonebridge, Gregory, Dudman.
Torquay: Turner; Pethard, Ritchie, Boulton (Smith), Bourne, Sermanni, Davies, Lawrence, Cooper, Twitchin, Murphy.



GRIMSBY (0) 1 (Waters)
CHESTERFIELD (0) 1 (Walker) 8,406
Grimsby: Batch; Stone, Moore (K), Waters, Wigginton, Crombie, Brolly, Ford, Kilmore (Drinkell), Mitchell, Cumming.
Chesterfield: Tingay; Tarrt, O'Neill, Ridley, Green, Kowalski, Birch, Moss, Walker, Salmons, Crawford.

HALIFAX (2) 2 (Burke, Stafford)
SCARBOROUGH (0) 0 3,778
Halifax: Kilner; Dunleavy, Hutt, Evans, Harris, Hendrie, Firth, Kennedy, Smith, Burke, Stafford.
Scarborough: Livsey; Murphy, Fountain, Dunn (H), Dixey, Marshall, Gauden, Donoghue (Abbey), Sellers, Boylen, Dunn (H.A.).

HARLOW (1) 2 (Twigg, Fairclough)
LEYTONSTONE/ILFORD (0) 1 (Powell) 1,800
Harlow: Kitson; Wickenden, Flack, Adams, Austin, Fairclough, Clarke, Mann, Twigg (Parker), McKenzie, Griffiths.
Leytonstone: Danson; Jacques, Hazledenn, Herlock, McKayna, Wells, Reaves, Fox, Lye, Powell, Brooks (Gaine).

HEREFORD (1) 1 (Layton)
NORTHAMPTON (0) 0 3,384
Hereford: Hughes; Price, Burrows, Marshall, Layton, Cunningham; Feeley, Spiring, McGrellis, Phillips, White.
Northampton: Poole; Walker, Sandercock, Byatt, Waldoock, Farrington, Denyer, Sargent, Farmer, Bowen, Townsend.

KIDDERMINSTER (0) 0
BLACKBURN (2) 2 (Crawford, Craig) 4,500
Kidderminster: Moore; Hogg, Dyer, Nichols, Atkins, Chambers, Powell, Warom, Mullen, Griffiths, Foxwell.
Blackburn: Arnold; Branagan, Round, Parks, Kealey, Fazackerley, Brotherton, Crawford, Craig, McKenzie, Metcalfe.

MINEHEAD (1) 1 (Brown)
CHESHAM (1) 2 (Woolfrey, Dodd) 820
Minehead: Lee; Clausen, Impey, Carter, Walker, Darke (Preece), Guscott, Dunne, Whitmore, Brown, Bruce.
Chesham: Barber; Griffiths, Smith, Horstead, Dodd, Johnson (P), Jackett, Watt, Martell, Johnson (D), Woolfrey.

MORECAMBE (0) 1 (McLachlan pen)
ROTHERHAM (1) 1 (Finney) 4,100
Morecambe: Byram; Farrell, Walsh, Foster, Street, Moran, Darling, Clayton, Clarke, Parry, McLachlan.
Rotherham: Mountford; Forrest, Breckin, Rhodes, Stancliffe, Green, Finney, McEwan, Gwyther, Fern, Nix.

NUNEATON (1) 3 (Pugh 3)
NORTHWICH (1) 3 (Stromek, Smith 2, (1 pen)) 3,817
Nuneaton: Hall; Farndon, Smithers, Cross, Fallon, Gray, Stockley, Sugrue, Pugh, Gallagher, Hault (Campbell).
Northwich: Ryan; Ritchie, Nieman, O'Neill, Forshaw, Jones, Collier, Stromek, Smith, Bailey, Braithwaite.

PETERBOROUGH (1) 1 (Kellock)
BOURNEMOUTH (2) 2 (Chard o.g., Evanson) 3,777
Peterborough: Waugh; Carmichael, Collins, Sharkey, Smith, Foster, Chard (Robson), Kellock, Cliss, Parkinson, Syrett.
Bournemouth: Allen; Cunningham, Ferns, Impey, Townsend, Chambers, Holder, MacDougall, Butler, Evanson, Miller.

PORTSMOUTH (1) 1 (Brisley)
NEWPORT (0) 0 19,459
Portsmouth: Knight; Ellis, Viney, Brisley, Aizlewood, Davey, Garwood, Laidlaw, Ashworth (Hammerman), Bryant, Rogers.
Newport: Dowler; Walden, Relish, Bruton (D), Oakes, Bailey, Vaughan, Lowndes, Aldridge, Tynan, Howey (Warringer).

READING (1) 2 (Kearney 2, Heale, Kearns)
KETERING (2) 2 (Phipps 2) 5,877
Reading: Death; Hetzke, Henderson, Bowman, Shipperley, Moreline, Kearns, Kearney, Heale, Sanchez, Joslyn.
Kettering: Lane; Ashby, Jones, Suddards, Clarke, Phillips, Easthall, Evans, Phipps, Clayton, Finnagan.

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DOWN:— (1) Stan. (2) Tom. (3) Vibrate. (4) Paul Power. (5) Own. (6) Wednesday. (7) Layton. (12) Range. (13) Oxford. (15) Eel. (17) Law. (19) Ignore. (22) Mane. (24) Skid. (25) Ear. (26) Gow. (29) If.

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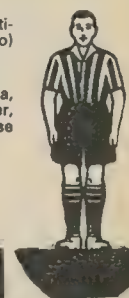
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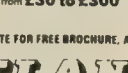
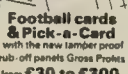
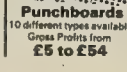
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RICHIE Morgan and Brian Harris did the impossible at Cardiff City last season — the miracle is going to take a little longer.

The impossible was to check Cardiff's nosedive towards the Third Division, turn the club round, and finish a staggering ninth in the Second Division table. The miracle will be to take the club back into the First Division.

"We are now on the next stage of our recovery, sifting through the players at Ninian Park," says Morgan. "Frankly, we're only interested in one kind — winners."

"There are a lot of players here who were around when the club was tumbling towards the Third Division. Those who are showing they can adapt to the attitudes that Brian and I expect will be staying."

As a player, Harris was every inch a thoroughbred. As assistant-manager and coach, he is setting the kind of standards he deman-



sweat and ability."

The main reason behind Cardiff's cash shortage is the Safety of Sports Grounds Act. No club in the game was hit so savagely.

"We've been the only club in the Football League unable to stage floodlit matches — and it's cost us something like £400,000," says secretary Lance Hayward.

Nevertheless, the work is almost over and done with. Moreover, the same schedule today would be twice as expensive. At least from now on, Cardiff can rebuild on the pitch as well as on the stands and terraces.

Rival

Welsh players dominate the side. In the central defence, there is a choice of two internationals, Rod Thomas and Dave Roberts, and the Under-21 cap Keith Pontin. Wales utility player Phil Dwyer has a local right-back rival in Linden Jones.

In midfield, Wayne Hughes has been brought home from the United States and up-front, Ray Bishop is developing into a lethal,

quicksilver striker who has the ball in the back of the net before opposing defenders can pick him up.

Bishop is typical of the change of attitude demanded by Morgan and Harris. At first, he was an uncertain fledgling professional, who promised much, but delivered infrequently. This season he is showing himself to be the best 'little' front man that Welsh football appears to have found since Gil Reece.

"Every time I hit the back of the net, there is another surge of confidence in my game," he says. "It was our reserve team coach Doug Livermore who put me right 'Concentrate on what is going on around you and keep your mind on the game,' he told me. That's what I'm doing now."



Mastermind Morgan

ded of himself when Everton were winning the League Championship and the F.A. Cup in the 1960's — and again when he masterminded Cardiff to the Semi-Finals of the European Cup-Winners' Cup in 1968.

"It was quite tremendous for the club when we ended last season with that 11-match unbeaten run. Now we have to go on from there. And we are," he says. "The first half of this season is the first time since the early 1970's when this club has not faced a battle for Second Division survival from the word 'go'."



Welsh internationals Dave Roberts (left) and Phil Dwyer (right) have produced a defensive stability which has allowed Cardiff to look to the future with renewed optimism.

"Okay, so it is not that spectacular ... but we are forging ahead. We cannot do what Queens Park Rangers, Newcastle, Sunderland and Birmingham are doing and buy a player for several hundred thousand pounds to cure a consistent weakness."

"Occasionally, Richie and I feel a mixture of frustration and envy at the way a manager like Tommy Docherty can buy and sell players. We know that we have to do it the hard way but maybe the hard way works out best in the end. Everything we accomplish will be by



Livermore, key player in the City side that climbed straight out of the Third Division in the mid 1970's, was brought back to the club by Morgan and Harris. Now his new job is just as critical to the club as when he was a driving skipper.

Already the fruits of Livermore's hard work are starting to make an impact in the Cardiff first team.

"We were not producing young players," says Morgan. "In fact, we were losing them by neglect — and from the Rhondda Valley of all places. Now we have a weekly coaching clinic there and another one at Cwmbran in Gwent."

"Never again do I want to see Welsh youngsters quitting Wales without first being given the chance to join Cardiff City. The job is a long way from being done here and progress has to be slow because of our cash problem, but any progress is good progress!"

CARDIFF CITY



BACK ROW: left to right: John Lewis, Dave Roberts, Keith Poole, Ronnie Moore, John Davies, Ben Hirst, Gary Stevens, Rod Thomas, Alan Campbell, John Buchanan.
 FRONT ROW: Brian Iwan (left manager), Steve Crooks, Billy Romain, Phil Davies, Keith Morgan (manager), Colin Smith, Ray Bishop, Kevin Jones, Doug Evans (young coach).

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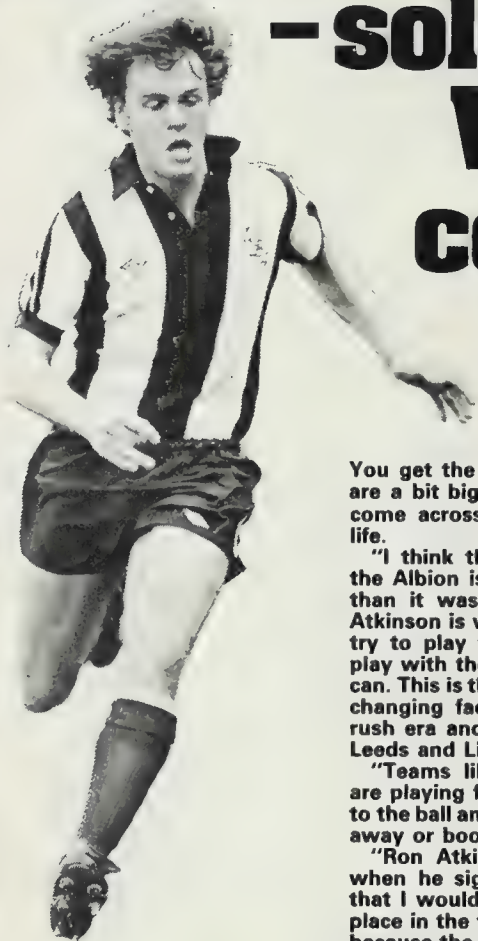


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JOHN DEEHAN - sold so Villa could buy



WHEN John Deehan left Aston Villa in a £400,000 transfer to neighbouring West Bromwich Albion, it was a move that took the 22-year-old striker completely by surprise.

"I thought I was at Villa Park for keeps when Andy Gray was sold to Wolves," he says. "But the manager, Ron Saunders, didn't want me, so I had to go."

"At the time Villa were at a low ebb with the boardroom wrangles. I was prepared to stay and fight it out with the other lads. But it didn't take much persuasion for me to leave. They seem to be playing better now but I don't think they'll fare as well as Albion once we get going."

"I think Aston Villa wanted some money to buy a player — possibly Des Bremner. I suppose it cost them nothing. It was £400,000 clear to them and that's the way football has gone. It's business now."

Deehan, known in football circles as "Dixie", is no stranger to the West Brom players, for he has joined England Under-21 team mates Bryan Robson, Gary Owen, Cyrille Regis, Peter Barnes and Derek Statham.

"It's a great team atmosphere," he says. "Old hands such as Tony Brown, John Wile and Ally Robertson made me really welcome. They're marvellous people."

"Footballers in general are the same all round — a nice set of lads."

You get the odd one or two who are a bit big headed, but you can come across that in any walk of life.

"I think the football played by the Albion is more attack-minded than it was at Aston Villa. Ron Atkinson is very insistent that you try to play football and learn to play with the ball as much as you can. This is the latest trend and the changing face from the kick and rush era and the lock-out days at Leeds and Liverpool."

"Teams like Palace and Forest are playing football. They hold on to the ball and don't want to give it away or boot it anywhere."

"Ron Atkinson was very blunt when he signed me. He told me that I would have to fight for my place in the team, which suits me, because the squad at the Albion is obviously very good."

"He didn't have to tell me all that much because I've been in Birmingham all my life and I know what West Brom are all about."

"As far as the ground and facilities are concerned we're not as well off as Aston Villa, and that gives us an extra incentive to beat them."

Deehan scored around 65 goals in 130 top class matches for Villa and topped their scoring charts with nine goals last season, but so far has struggled to find the net for Albion.

"I've hit a barren patch. But coming to the Albion is like starting a new page."

At the moment Deehan links up with Ally Brown. "I would say that I was the hit man. I go for the high balls and Ally feeds off me more than vice versa."

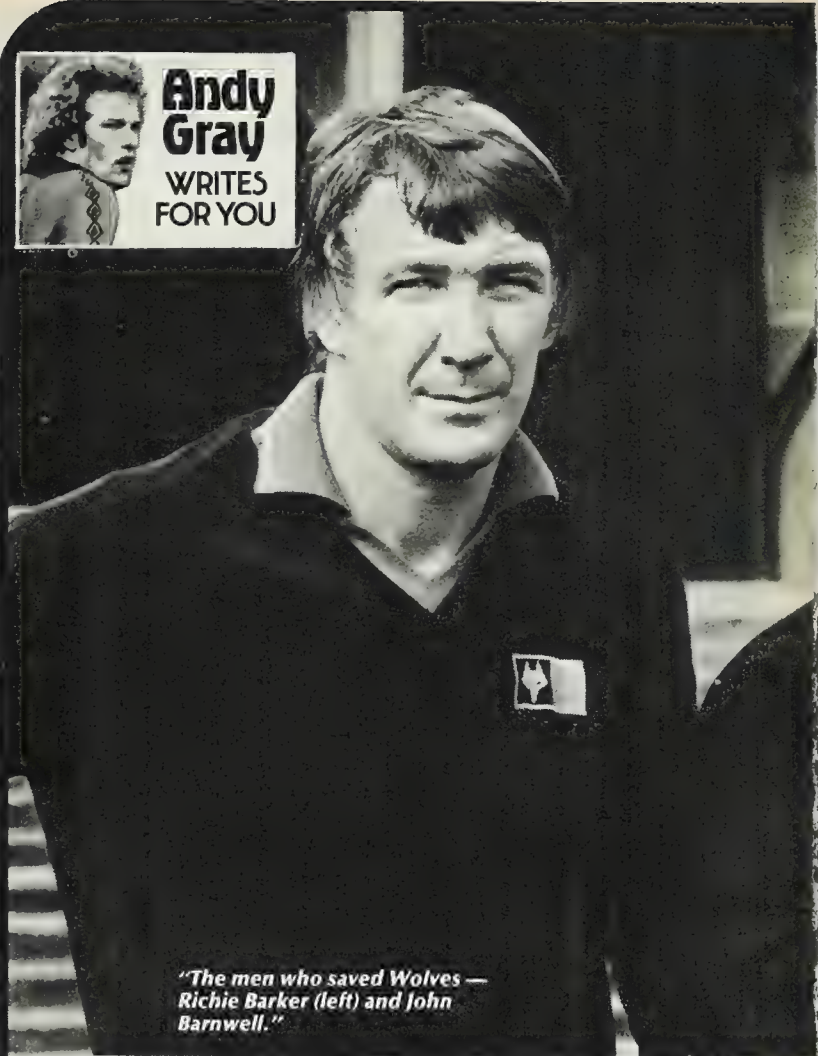
"It's a very similar role to the one I had at Villa with Brian Little. There's not much difference between the two players, both of them are very fast, quick on the turn and they like to get into the box."

Deehan is resolute about his immediate aims at The Hawthorns. "To move up the League and to start winning again," he says. "That's the main thing, and to get a few goals in the process."

With growing concern over England's centre-forward problems, a sudden run of form from 'Dixie' Deehan could place him firmly in the international spotlight and in line for the 1982 World Cup.



Andy Gray
WRITES
FOR YOU



*"The men who saved Wolves —
Richie Barker (left) and John
Barnwell."*

A FEW weeks ago, manager John Barnwell had all the players at a meeting about discipline within the club. He was underlining exactly what he expected from us. In front of all the squad, he said: "I include every player, even if he cost £1.5 million."

My respect for the boss went up, because despite my record fee, I regard myself simply as one member of the first team squad, certainly not exempt from anything. To me, it doesn't matter if you cost £1 or £1.5 million, you must pull your weight and accept the same code of conduct as the rest.

Perhaps you'd expect me to say this, but it's true nevertheless — I like John Barnwell. I can't remember him as a player and he first came to my attention when he was manager of Peterborough.

Then, last season he was appointed to take charge of Wolves, who had "relegation" written all over them. Rarely has there been such an escape act.

Living in Birmingham, I used to read and see quite a lot about Wolves — Alex Cropley and I, near neighbours, often used to have an afternoon 'cuppa' to chat about soccer and we often wondered what John Barnwell had done to save Wolves from relegation. Not only that, they reached the Semi-Finals of the F.A. Cup, only to be beaten by Arsenal.

Okay, it was the players who did it out on the park, but I'm sure without John Barnwell and his

assistant Richie Barker Wolves wouldn't have been saved. Having been under the pair for five months or so, I think it is difficult to separate the two as they work so closely together, a team in every respect.

I first met Mr Barnwell for lunch when the transfer was given the go-ahead. I always make a point of calling a manager Mister unless I know him — now, Mr Barnwell is simply boss.

We had lunch with Ian Ross, who was formerly with Villa and now helps with Wolves' reserves. To say I was very impressed with the boss is an understatement. We chatted about football in general and he came over as a man with plenty of personality, a good story-teller and someone who enjoys a yarn.

What I didn't realise at the time was how badly the boss's car accident had affected him. He's not been out of hospital that long, yet gave no indication that he was still far from 100 per cent.

His doctor subsequently told him to take a short holiday and work his way back gradually. That isn't easy when you're a football manager, but we're glad that the boss is pretty well recovered now.

He is a track-suit manager and we see him every day, although Richie does most of the coaching. The boss is there to see everything run smoothly, while his personality commands respect from everyone.

He's a great motivator; personally, I like to be put under a

WHAT JOHN BARNWELL HAS TAUGHT ME



bit of pressure. The boss mentioned at the beginning of December that I hadn't been scoring as regularly as usual and I responded with a few goals.

He is always prepared to listen to you and handles the team meetings with calm authority. He has his say, then Richie Barker and then Emlyn Hughes, as captain, will make a few comments. The boss asks the rest of the players for any views; for instance, when we played Aston Villa I had a few things to say . . .

Mr Barnwell has certainly helped me settle down as a player. He'd rather me play 40 games and score 20 goals than 20 games and score 20 goals. He's impressed upon me the need not to be so reckless and while I still go in where it hurts, my play is more controlled these days. I am also learning a lot about the finer points of the game.

I get on well with Richie, even though like most of the Wolves players, there have been times when I've wanted to whack him! Richie has had a go at me after a game, saying I've not done this or that and in the heat of the moment I've seen red. However, when I've quietened down and thought about it, I usually reckon Richie has been right.

As coach, Richie is probably closer to the players in that he socialises with us occasionally, whereas the boss rightly is more detached.

Richie is more vociferous than



Mr Barnwell, but this is invariably the case with managers and coaches.

Our captain, Emlyn Hughes, is a player I disliked playing against when I was with Villa and he with Liverpool because, like me, he's a bit of a moaner! Seriously, we get on like a house on fire and Crazy Horse, who is exactly like his TV personality, is always smiling and laughing.

Wolves present a big challenge to him at the end of his career and he is far more than just a player. I particularly noticed this in our League Cup tie replay against Grimsby Town at Molineux. Emlyn had to go off after ten minutes and while substitute Colin Brazier did a

sound job, we missed the skipper's leadership and encouragement.

John Barnwell is trying to get a Liverpool-style set-up at Wolves — let's face it, The Reds are still the yardstick for everyone else. With Emlyn and Ian Ross we have two personalities who have experience of Anfield, while Bill Shankly is a close friend of the boss and a frequent visitor to Molineux.

This week it's the F.A. Cup Third Round and we face the inevitable away trip, to Notts County. The lads were telling me they've forgotten what it's like to be drawn at home in a Cup competition.

It could have been worse. At this stage, you hope for a good home

LEFT . . . "I had a few things to say at our team meeting when we played Villa."

BELOW . . . "Emlyn Hughes' captaincy inspires those around him."



draw; the worst you can get is Liverpool or a top club away, or one of the non-League sides on their own ground. That's when the form-book is often turned upside down. I love to see this happening . . . from a distance!

County are a strong Second Division team who have impressed me when I've seen them on T.V. I can't remember ever playing against them, although I know two or three of their players well, notably Don Masson.

Some of Wolves' best performances this season have been away from home; in this respect I don't mind travelling, but I'm disappointed, again, for our fans.

Join me in two weeks,

Neil Great



This week Plymouth's highly-rated Gary Megson, on a month's loan to Everton, selects the jokes specially drawn by our resident cartoonist Styx.

FOOTBALL FUNNIES



"Play together! Our lot won't even sit together!"

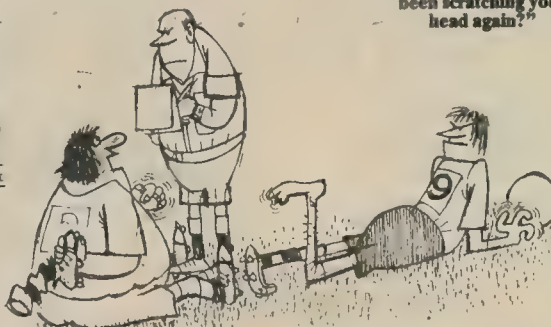


"Splinters — have you been scratching your head again?"

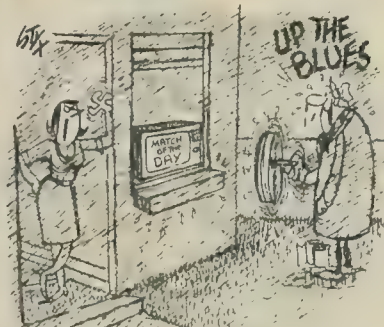


"Get me the psychiatrist. I've got a nut who wants to be a football manager"

"When I played football I had the best swerve shot in the First Division"



"Honest, ref — cross my heart — it was an accidental trip. I didn't grab his foot"



"D'you know something? I think you're bonkers."

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TAKE A BREAK—IT'S

Quiz Time

THE F.A. CUP

1. How many clubs enter the F.A. Cup at the Third Round stage?

2. Has Brian Clough (below) ever managed a club to an F.A. Cup Final success?



3. Ted MacDougall holds the individual goalscoring record in the F.A. Cup when he scored seven, eight or nine goals for Blackburn, Bournemouth or Brighton?

4. Who skippered Leeds United to their 1-0 1972 Final victory against Arsenal?

5. Which non-League club knocked Crewe Alexandra out of this season's First Round?

6. Which of these players — Dave Watson (Southampton), Joe Corrigan (Manchester City, below) or Ray Kennedy (Liverpool), has never won a Cup-winners medal?

7. Non-League Croydon were forced to play their Second Round home clash with Millwall this season at which First Division ground?

8. Tranmere Rovers were top scorers in the First Round this season when they beat AP Leamington 7-0, 8-0 or 9-0?

9. Where was the first F.A. Cup Final played?

10. Were Wimbledon a Fourth Division club when they had their fine Cup run in 1975 when they reached the Fourth Round?

11. Rearrange the jumbled letters to find the name of the 1973 F.A. Cup-winning goalkeeper and his club . . . MIJMMTOYREONG (DDLSNNARUE).



12. Danny Blanchflower (above) Bill Shankly or Stanley Matthews was the last player to score a penalty in a Cup Final?

13. What is wrong with this statement: Newcastle United hold the record of seven Cup Final wins?

14. True or false? Chelsea knocked Liverpool out of the Third Round 4-2 at Stamford Bridge in 1977-78.

15. How many F.A. Cup winners medals has Alan Ball (below) won during his career?



ANSWERS

1. 64 2. No 3. Nine for Bourne-mouth 4. Billy Bremner 5. Altrincham 6. Corrigan 7. Selhurst Park, home of Crystal Palace 8. 9-0 9. The Oval 10. No — a non-League side 11. Jim Montgomery (Sunderland) 12. Blanchflower 13. Aston Villa hold the record 14. True 15. None

NEXT WEEK

England's opponents in the European Championship Finals.

Draw preview

Everton star Mark Higgins confesses he wants an England cap.



? Why a Man. City star tips deadly rivals Man. Utd., to win the First Division title.

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George Best of Hibs — a great colour photo

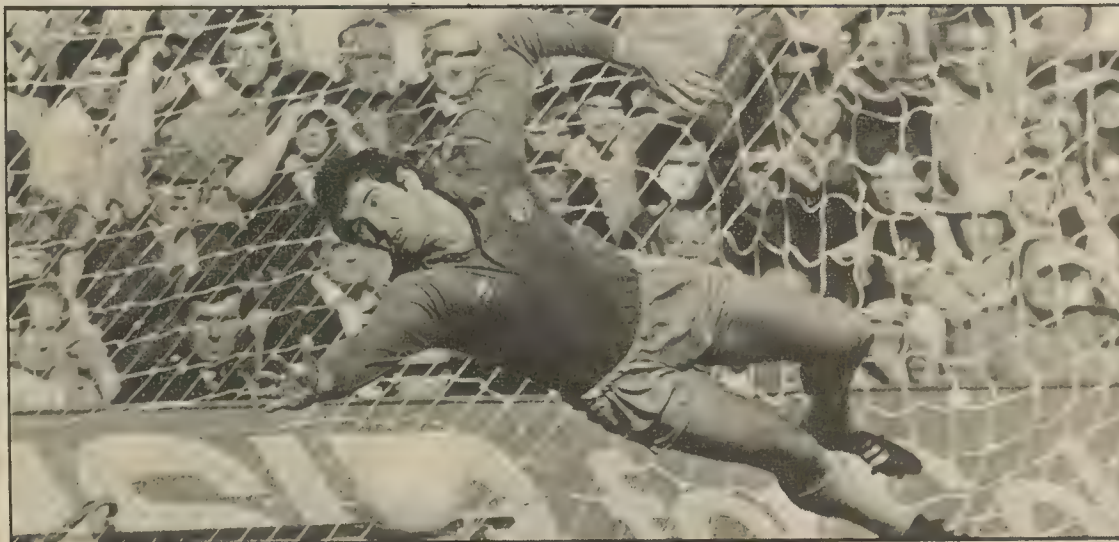
Part Two of our fabulous F.A. Cup Wallchart

Scottish boss Ally MacLeod has problems again

Billy Bonds

leads West Ham's revival — plus Hammers team group in colour

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This week's Star Letter comes from Martin Watson of Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, who wins our Special Prize of £5. He writes:

VILLA ON RIGHT ROAD

★ IN reply to Joanne Ashley's recent letter as to why so many players have left Aston Villa there are various reasons.

The team has changed considerably since 1977, when we won the League Cup and finished fourth in the League.

Looking at the 1977 team, it can be argued that some of the players sold should have been retained.

However, many sales were justified. John Burridge was replaced by a better goalkeeper in Jimmy Rimmer. John Gidman's departure may seem unfortunate but he had been unsettled at Villa Park for sometime. Gordon Smith had a row with Ron Saunders after being dropped, while John Robson was forced to retire.

Chris Nicholl's sale has always puzzled Villa fans, but it is rumoured he was sold for reasons beyond Saunders' control. Leighton Phillips should possibly have been kept for his experience, although Allan Evans has proved to be an excellent buy.

Of the midfield, Alex Cropley and Frank Carrodus were struck by injuries. In attack, the sale of John Deehan was good because he never lived up to his early expectations. Andy Gray? It's well known he left Villa for one thing — money; even the chairman stated this on local radio.

The Villa players have recently stated it's a joy to play for the club again and there is a noticeable lift in spirit. Ron Saunders has built a good team that should mature and bring honours to Villa Park again.

● Sorry, but I can't see the present side becoming as effective or as attractive as the '77 team. What a pity we never found out just how good that side could have become.

Unlucky Hibbitt

SO Mike Robinson thinks Steve Daley is worth an England place on his current form (December 15th issue). When Wolves beat Manchester City 3-2 at Maine Road, Kenny Hibbitt put on a terrific midfield show when he made Daley look a second-rater.

Hibbitt took the game by the scruff of the neck and shook the life out of City. His forceful runs and wholehearted enthusiasm, backed by some power-shooting made Kenny outstanding.

It is he, not Daley, who should be

in Ron Greenwood's squad.

CYRIL WRIGHT, HUDDERSFIELD.

● I've always felt Hibbitt (below) was a little unlucky to be overlooked by England.



Eight Johns

LOOKING through the list of players retained by St. Johnstone, I realised my favourite side really live up to their name, having no less than eight Johns on their books.

LYNNE HUTCHESON, BURGHMUIR.

● What happens when someone shouts "give it to John?"

Pen-Pal

I'M a 14-year-old Finnish boy and I'd like to correspond with an English boy who supports Arsenal.

HANNU KAUKANEN, AHMANKATU 12, 80130 JOENSUU 13, FINLAND.

Two Words

TO all those English fans who have laughed at Alan Rough over the past year, I have just two words to say: Peter Shilton.

ALEC MCKEWAN, DUNDEE.

● Yes, the Forest 'keeper has made some uncharacteristic errors in the past few weeks. We were beginning to wonder if he was human or not...

THE MOST memorable moment of 1979, or any year, for me was the birth of our daughter Hayley on December 9th in St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester.

For those girl readers interested in such vital statistics she was 7lbs. 5ozs. at birth and is a real stunner... a candidate for Miss 1999.

Obviously Hayley is the most important happening of my life and means more to me than the League Championship, European Cup or even the World Cup.

The noise she makes when she is hungry would do the Strelford End proud.

Mind you, our fans had plenty to cheer in 1979, a year that was reasonably successful for Manchester United.

entertained by exciting play, turned on the team at times for lack of adventure.

It was unfair to compare this present squad with that of a few years ago. I recall saying in SHOOT Dave Sexton would need time to put together his side and ideas into action.

Our run in to Wembley and fighting finish against Arsenal in the Final proved United are a side as exciting as any other... a side that can battle... a side more than capable of winning trophies.

I'd say 1979 was the year United grew up. Gained the vital experience that has made us a much stronger team.

Losing the Final, especially after staging such a fantastic recovery

'1979-when

We kicked-off 1979 by beating Chelsea in a Third Round F.A. Cup tie delayed a couple of weeks by the bad weather that had us all freezing in January.

At the time I said in SHOOT that I felt United had the Wembley look and was proved right.

After Chelsea, we beat Fulham, Colchester and Spurs before meeting Liverpool in the Semi-Finals.

As you know United defeated the mighty Anfield Roaders 1-0 in a replay at Goodison after a 2-2 draw.

Losing a late goal at Maine Road was a real killer at the time. But on reflection I'm glad we didn't beat Liverpool first time.

You see, the replay at Everton was perhaps the most exciting, certainly most vital club match of my career.

Most people believed United had missed their chance of victory and wouldn't be able to recover from the disappointment of getting so close to a result in the first game.

But we ran ourselves into the ground, fought for every ball and then produced a match-winner for Jimmy Greenhoff, United's real Cup hero last season.

Jimmy deserves the freedom of Manchester for his services to the club. Let's hope 1980 starts bright for him and he makes a full recovery from the injury that has kept him out for so long.

Reaching Wembley was a fitting climax to the club's Centenary season and just reward for manager Dave Sexton and the team, who had endured a fair amount of criticism during the campaign for our inconsistent First Division record and humiliating League Cup defeat by Watford.

Even United fans, used to being

was the disappointment of the year for all at Old Trafford. In fact, I still can't really believe it happened.

Liam Brady, the footballer's Player of the Year, had a quiet Final, yet he schemed Arsenal into a two-goal lead at Wembley. He was also my star of '79.



Liverpool's Graeme Souness gets in a shot against United in the F.A. Cup Semi-Final replay, but to no avail. United capped a great show to win 1-0.



Lou Macari (left) scores the kind of goal against Norwich which has kept United among the pacesetters this season.

MY SOCCER WORLD Gordon McQueen

United grew up'

He's got extra special talents, a soccer genius who is all set to join Tony Woodcock and Co. on the Continent when his present contract expires.

Brady enjoyed quite a good year for the Republic of Ireland but I was dropped by Scotland in January for

the first time in my international career.

That was for the European Championship tie against Belgium. Scotland means everything to me

so you can imagine it was a big blow to be left out of the squad.

The game was postponed anyway, but being dropped by Jock Stein was a shattering experience... but it put me in a fighting mood.

I was even more determined to do well for United and regain my international place. Happily I was recalled for the British Championship in May.

It was tremendous going back to Wembley so soon after the Cup Final to meet England.

For the first 45 minutes a great Scottish victory seemed likely. At half-time we were level at 1-1 and looking the better team.

Then my United club-mate Steve Coppell and Kevin Keegan delivered the knock-out punches in the second-half.

Scotland made amends a week or so later by a hammering Norway 4-0 in the European Championship in Oslo.

Glitter

Despite a doubt about my fitness I was also called up for our recent match against Belgium at Hampden.

Sandy Jardine was captain and I was pleased for him. One of my wishes for the New Year is to be chosen by Jock Stein to lead Scotland right through to the World Cup Finals.

Now that would be a highlight of 1980... so would a Championship win for United.

The glitter and glory of Cup Finals is tremendous for the fans, of course, but everyone at the club is

aware we won't be judged a top club until the Championship trophy returns to Old Trafford. That's the real achievement in football.

At the moment, despite one or two lapses of form, United are maintaining their position at the top.

We've also won back the fans and those critics who were so quick to write us off last season. Make no mistake... the best of The Reds is yet to come.

This Saturday the battle for the Championship is set aside. It's F.A. Cup time and United have a tough Third Round tie against Spurs at White Hart Lane.

United's record against the Londoners over the past year has been impressive.

We won in the F.A. Cup last season, 2-0 in a Sixth Round replay at Old Trafford, beat them 4-3 on aggregate in this term's League Cup and were 2-1 winners at White Hart Lane in the League recently.

Mind you those results will count for nothing this Saturday. The F.A. Cup is a whole new ball game.

I'll forecast a draw... and a win for United in the replay.

Cheers for now...



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League changes

When were the different Divisions of the Football League started?

JENNY WOO,
SINGAPORE.

Well, Jenny, the League itself started back in 1888 with just one Division of 12 clubs.

Four years later, by which time the First Division had been increased to 16 clubs, a new Second Division of 12 clubs was inaugurated.

In 1920 — with both the First and Second Divisions now 22 clubs apiece — a Third Division of an equal number of clubs was formed.

But these were all Southern clubs and so, 12 months later, this became the Third Division (South) — while a similar section called the Third Division (North) was started.

This remained the set-up until 1958, when the two were "mixed-up" to form the start of the present Third and Fourth Divisions.

Goalscoring debut

Who's scored the most goals in his League debut?

MICHAEL RHODES,
HITCHIN.

Chelsea's George Hillsden holds that record as far as the Football League is concerned, Michael.

He scored five goals against Glossop, in a Division Two game, on 1st September, 1906.

And five other players have each scored four goals on their Football League debut.

But best of all in the British Isles — probably in a major League anywhere in the world — is the feat of John Dyet.

He scored EIGHT goals on his League debut in King's Park's 12-2 victory over Forfar Athletic in a Scottish Division Two game on 2nd January, 1930.

Rangers/Hibs

Back in 1948, when I was in Britain, I went to a Scottish Cup Semi-Final between Rangers and Hibernian at Hampden Park. But 30-years-plus is a long time — and now I can't remember anything about the result!

FREDERICK BRIDGE,
U.S.A.

That match, played on 27th March of that year, Frederick, ended in a 1-0 win for Rangers. After which Rangers went on to win the Cup 1-0 in a replayed Final after a 1-1 draw with Morton.

England v World

What were the two sides when England played the Rest of the World at Wembley in 1963?

DAVID TOPPS,
NOTTINGHAM

This is how they lined-up on 23rd October, that year, David, in a game to mark the F.A.'s Centenary.

ENGLAND... Banks (Leicester); Armfield (Blackpool) (capt.); Wilson (Huddersfield); Milne (Liverpool); Norman (Spurs); Moore (West Ham); Paine (Southampton); Greaves (Spurs); Smith (Spurs); Eastham (Arsenal); Charlton (Manchester Utd.).

REST... Yashin (Russia); Djalmá

Santos (Brazil); Schnellinger (West Germany); Pluskal (Czechoslovakia); Popluhar (Czechoslovakia); Masopust (Czechoslovakia); Kopa (France); Law (Scotland); di Stefano (Spain) (capt.); Eusebio (Portugal); Gento (Spain). In the second-half, by agreement, they used five subs — Soskic (Yugoslavia); Eyzaguirre (Chile); Baxter (Scotland); Seeler (West Germany); and Puskas (Spain).

Paine and Greaves scored the goals in England's 2-1 win; Law replying for the Rest.

Old Trafford low

The lowest attendance for a League game here in Holland is 98 spectators once at the ground of SC Amersfoort. Can you beat that in the Football League?

TONY ROOSENBOOM,
HOLLAND

I'm sorry to say we can, Tony — by no less than 85! And it was played at Manchester United's famous ground at Old Trafford, too.

True, the circumstances were a bit exceptional — Stockport County's own ground was then under suspension — but, all the same, only 13 spectators actually paid to see their "home" Division Two game with Leicester City on 7th May, 1921.

SHORT PASSES

Swansea's first Football League game was a 3-0 defeat at Portsmouth on 28th August, 1920.

(GETHIN JONES, Ammanford)

Kevin Keegan was born at Armthorpe, near Doncaster, on 14th February, 1951.

(JOE CALLAN, U.S.A.)

George Best scored nine goals in his 37 full internationals for Northern Ireland.

(JOHN HUNTER, Londonderry)

Brentford have spent four seasons in Division One; their best-ever finishing-position being fifth in 1935-36.

(L. SPINK, Hounslow)

Greatest number of penalties scored by a player in Football League games in a season is 13 — by Francis Lee, for Manchester City, in Division One in 1971-72.

(GOH LOUIS, Singapore)

Ian Callaghan played 640 League games — a Liverpool club-record — before his transfer to Swansea in September, 1978.

(COLM FARRELL, Eire)

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Overseas readers win a special SHOOT T-shirt instead of money. When writing, readers should state their size: small, medium or large.

CAN

AFTER a decade in the international wilderness, England fans heaved a giant sigh of relief when they qualified for the Quarter-Finals of the European Championship to be held in June.

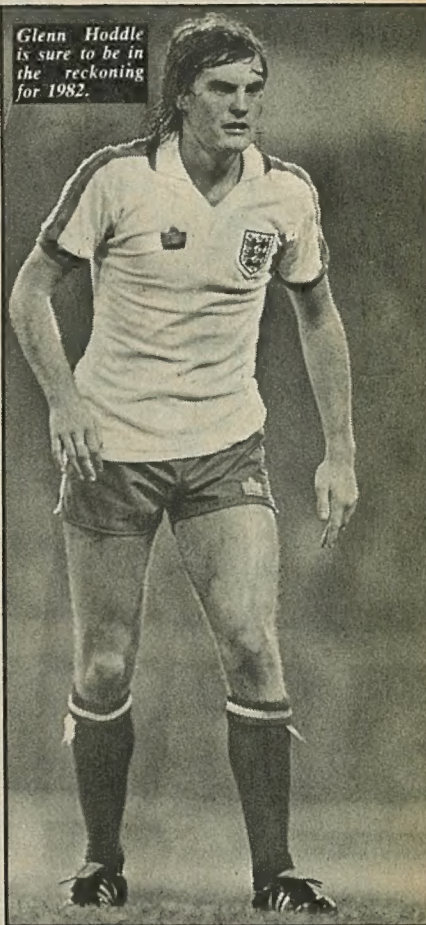
England, under Sir Alf Ramsey and Don Revie, have been absent from the last two European Championships and World Cups; and if you don't think they have much chance in Italy this summer, it's worth remembering that the Italians and Dutch have been mercilessly criticised by their Press recently.

Ron Greenwood has put English football back on the international soccer map and while the European Championship is his priority, his objective has always been the 1982 World Cup.

A criticism of Greenwood is that he hasn't been flexible enough in his team-selections. His answer is that the time to experiment is not in competitive football, which is why the likes of Viv Anderson, Kenny Sansom, Glenn Hoddle and Kevin Reeves were introduced in matches when the heat was off.

Greenwood's loyalty, however, is admirable, a far cry from the Revie regime, where he would pick a player and forget him almost as quickly. The players appreciate Greenwood's backing and while his squad may not have as many skilful individuals as other countries, you won't find a happier

Glenn Hoddle is sure to be in the reckoning for 1982.



The World Cup is Ron Greenwood's objective

bunch of lads in Europe.

It's unlikely that England's team in Italy will be significantly different from the ones he's fielded this season against Denmark, Northern Ireland and Bulgaria.

Casting an eye even further to the future is even more perilous — who, for instance, last August would have thought Glenn Hoddle and Kevin Reeves would line-up together at Wembley in November?

Similarly, a year before England won the World Cup in 1966, Martin Peters, Geoff Hurst and Alan Ball were on nobody's list of certainities.

World Cup-winning teams seem to have a similar pattern running through them, though. Taking a closer look at the three World Champions of the 70's (Brazil, West Germany and Argentina) we find the respective average ages were 26, 27 and 25. All three teams were built slowly but surely, the nuclei of which were together

around two years before the Finals. And all three teams had 'surprise' players emerge almost at the last minute.

Clodoaldo and Rivelino, who were in Brazil's 1970 midfield, came through late; in 1974, Rainer Bonhof, West Germany's powerhouse, established himself only during the competition; while for Argentina, Menotti couldn't have hoped for Fillo and Kempes to have come good so conveniently.

So, perhaps somewhere there are one or two young players in Division One, or even Division Two, who few people have taken much notice of, but who could turn out to be World Cup aces for England in 1982.

At the moment, certain positions and players seem relatively safe; if anything in football can be called such. For instance, Greenwood will lose no sleep over his goalkeeper. Even if the unthinkable should happen, and Ray Clemence and Peter Shilton be injured, there is always the ever-reliable Joe Corrigan to call on.

Phil Neal of Liverpool will be 30 in 82. He has critics, but in his favour is that he plays for the best team in England and it is a considerable advantage to pick 'blocks' of players from clubs. Maybe it's unkind to Neal to choose him because of Ray Clemence and Phil Thompson... perhaps right-back will be the 'sur-

ENGLAND REIGN IN SPAIN?



Tony Woodcock (right) hopes to develop into a world-class striker in the Bundesliga.



Will Dave Watson be too old for Spain?

prise' position of 82. Who knows?

At the heart of England's defence Phil Thompson and Dave Watson are virtually unchallenged. Thompson will be 28 and Watson a somewhat alarming 35 in 82; again, Phil is helped by playing for Liverpool, while Watson is so professional and so naturally fit that we certainly wouldn't rule out his chances of being around by the time Spain stage the World Cup.

A poll amongst soccer fans, except those who support West Brom, would give Kenny Sansom the vote as England's left-back in 82, but even now we'd bet a few pesetas that Mick Mills will be in the squad, if not the side. Mills has the sort of qualities that are vital at

the highest level: experience, determination and the ability to perform admirably in defence or midfield. Mills is 30 now and is one of the League's most consistent players. Kenny Sansom — you've been warned! And Derek Statham — keep doing your best for West Brom. You never know . . .

One aspect noticeably missing from England's midfield is a ball-winner. Brazil, West Germany and Argentina all had one and so do most countries. England don't and it will be interesting to see if Greenwood's policy stands up in Italy. Of course, there aren't too many would-be Neeskens or Bonhofers coming through the ranks; a shame for England Crystal



Mick Mills, ever-reliable in the England back-four.

Palace's Peter Nicholas is Welsh, because he's a tremendous prospect.

At the moment, it's a fair bet that Steve Coppell will be asked to fill that kind of role, even though he is not a recognised tackler.

In Italy, Coppell could be flanked by Manchester United team-mate Ray Wilkins and either Glenn Hoddle or Trevor Brooking. Hoddle is still young and we mustn't get carried away by him; Brooking is 31, an enormously gifted schemer, but frustratingly plagued by injury at vital times. In 1982 he will be 33 and it's a fact that World Cup-winning teams don't have 33-year-old midfield men.

Palace's Vince Hilaire is an emerging talent, although his superb skills still need honing to international professionalism and consistency.

In attack, Kevin Keegan will obviously be around for a while, even though he'll be 31 in 1982. If two seasons in the Bundesliga can do to Tony Woodcock what they've done to K.K. then England will have an exciting, varied strike-force, supplemented, perhaps, by the million pound skills of Trevor Francis.

Bob Latchford and Peter Barnes seem to have dropped out of the reckoning, while Laurie Cunningham is stranded in Madrid.

If Greenwood sticks by Clemence, Neal, Watson, Thompson, Sansom, Wilkins, Coppell, Hoddle, Francis, Keegan and Woodcock for 1982, two factors will be against the team succeeding. The average age will be 28, too old by World Cup standards, while the midfield won't have a ball-winner.

Still, 1982 is a long way off . . . although if England's results continue to be as promising they could well reign in Spain!

FOCUS ON LEN CANTELLO BOLTON

FULL NAME: Len Cantello
BIRTHPLACE: Manchester
BIRTHDATE: 11th September, 1951
HEIGHT: 5ft 10ins
WEIGHT: 12st
PREVIOUS CLUB: West Bromwich Albion
MARRIED: To Janice Anne, she is lovely
CHILDREN: Joanne-Susie aged eight
CAR: Chrysler Horizon
FAVOURITE PLAYERS: George Best and Roberto Rivelino
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Manchester City
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: George Best
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: 1970 League Cup Final
BIGGEST THRILL: Beating Manchester United 5-3 at Old Trafford last season. It was the best match played in my career at West Brom
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Having to leave Dallas in America
BEST COUNTRY VISITED: America
FAVOURITE FOOD: Boeuf Stroganoff
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES: Horse racing and athletics

MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES: My horses losing
FAVOURITE T.V. SHOW: Star Trek
FAVOURITE SINGERS: Elvis Presley and Barry Manilow
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: James Cagney and Ingrid Bergman
BEST FRIENDS: Asa Hartford of Everton and Bryan Robson of West Brom
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My Father, Don Howe and Johnny Giles
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Losing and injuries
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Schoolboy, Youth and Under-23 England caps
PERSONAL AMBITION: To own my own horse
PROFESSIONAL AMBITION: To win a major honour with Bolton Wanderers
IF YOU WEREN'T A FOOTBALLER, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'D BE? Very upset
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? The person who smashed my car windscreen with a brick



SHOOT!